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THE HISTORY OF WELLINGTON.



THE MATERIALS FOR THE
HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF
WELLINGTON, co. SOMERSET,
COLLECTED & ARRANGED
BY ARTHUR L. HUMPHREYS.



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DEDICATION.

*Tha fruit o' longvul labour, years,
In theäze veo leaves at last apppears.
Ta you, tha Dwellers o' tha West,
I'm pleas'd that thâ shood be addresst :
Var thaw I now in Lunnun dwell,
I mine ye still, I love ye well ;
And niver, niver shall vorget
I vust drâw'd breath in Zummerzet.*

Jennings.

P R E F A C E.

THE collection and arrangement of the materials for this volume have occupied, for several years past, the leisure moments of an otherwise busy life. Early in 1888 I said in a letter to a local paper that I had made some progress with the work. Since that announcement was made eighteen months ago, I have, to the exclusion of other plans, made special efforts towards the completion of this book.

No history of Wellington has hitherto appeared, and I am hoping that this fact will be taken into consideration in judging of the pages which follow, where a mass of crude material is represented, of which the substance has been produced.

It is difficult to understand why Wellington has been so neglected by topographers, while places of much less historical importance have had justice done to them. There has been, I believe, a general idea current that the story of Wellington is barren of interest, and not worth the telling. If this work does nothing to dispel this error it is my fault, for our town may be ranked among that class

of country towns which have gradually grown from a few cottages clustering round the church to typical provincial market-towns. Wellington is not a place of mushroom growth, nor is it like, say Colchester or Winchester, places great in centuries gone by, the glory of which has in so large a measure relatively changed. The story of Wellington is for the most part one of peaceful triumphs, but it has in its existing records much of the quaintness and touch of the old world which to many of us are more pleasing than battles and bloodshed.

The putting together of this book has been a great delight. I have seen in this town the unit of the history of the nation, and observed how largely one was represented in the other. Casually, I recently came across a passage written by the late Mr. J. R. Green, which is very cheering to a local historian, and shows that he need not be such a dull dog as he is often made out to be. Speaking of certain narrow methods of study Mr. Green said, 'There is hardly a better corrective for all this (*viz.*, narrow and partial methods) to be found than to set a man frankly in the streets of a simple English town and to bid him work out the history of the men who had lived and died there. The mill by the stream, the tolls in the market-place, the brasses of its burghers in the church, the names of its streets, the lingering memory of its guilds, the mace of its mayor, tell us more of the past of England than the spire of Sarum or the martyrdom of Canterbury. We say de-

signedly of the past of England, rather than of the past of English towns. . . . In England the history of the town and of the country are one.'

The local antiquary, perhaps, best does his duty by the simple classification of facts pertinent to his subject. I have endeavoured to follow this precept as closely as possible, and for explanations of much which I have printed reference must be made to the volumes named in the footnotes, and others. It stands to reason that if every topographer were to include, under the history of the manor, say a treatise on manorial law, we should get a good deal of Elton—and water.

But it is sometimes hard to know where to draw the line. In the case of Sir John Popham I have felt justified in including a lengthened biography, for, although the Chief Justice was not a native of this town, he was associated with Wellington much more than either the place of his birth or Littlecote; and his memory is kept more green here than elsewhere by reason of the substantial memorials erected in and to his name.

In the case of Chipley and Locke I have gone a little outside the confines of the town. But the Chipley of the past was more closely linked up with Wellington than at present, and the mansion to-day is as heretofore closely contiguous to the boundaries of the parish.

The missing registers are a very serious loss, and their disappearance a mystery.

I have in reserve a considerable quantity of MS. which, for a variety of reasons, I have withheld. Some of this has been excluded because not quite germane to the subject, although relating to the district. Under the several headings more might have been said, but I have endeavoured to escape the tendency

‘To add and alter many times
Till all be ripe and rotten.’

Mr. Emanuel Green, F.S.A., not knowing my book was well advanced, sent me, with great kindness, at the eleventh hour, and too late for present purposes, several interesting references, principally to the early history of the town. These I may make use of on a future occasion.

I am hoping that my readers will not expect equal interest from the different divisions of the book. It is inevitable that certain parts should be ‘caviare to the general.’

I cannot but recognise here with gratitude and respect the kind help so very willingly given me by the late Rev. Prebendary Knowling, vicar of Wellington, who placed all materials under his control at once at my disposal. Also my obligations to Mr. Houghton Spencer of Taunton, Mr. C. Matthews of Langford Budville, and Mr. Gyngell for his contribution to the ornithology.

*Ealing Dean,
November 1889.*

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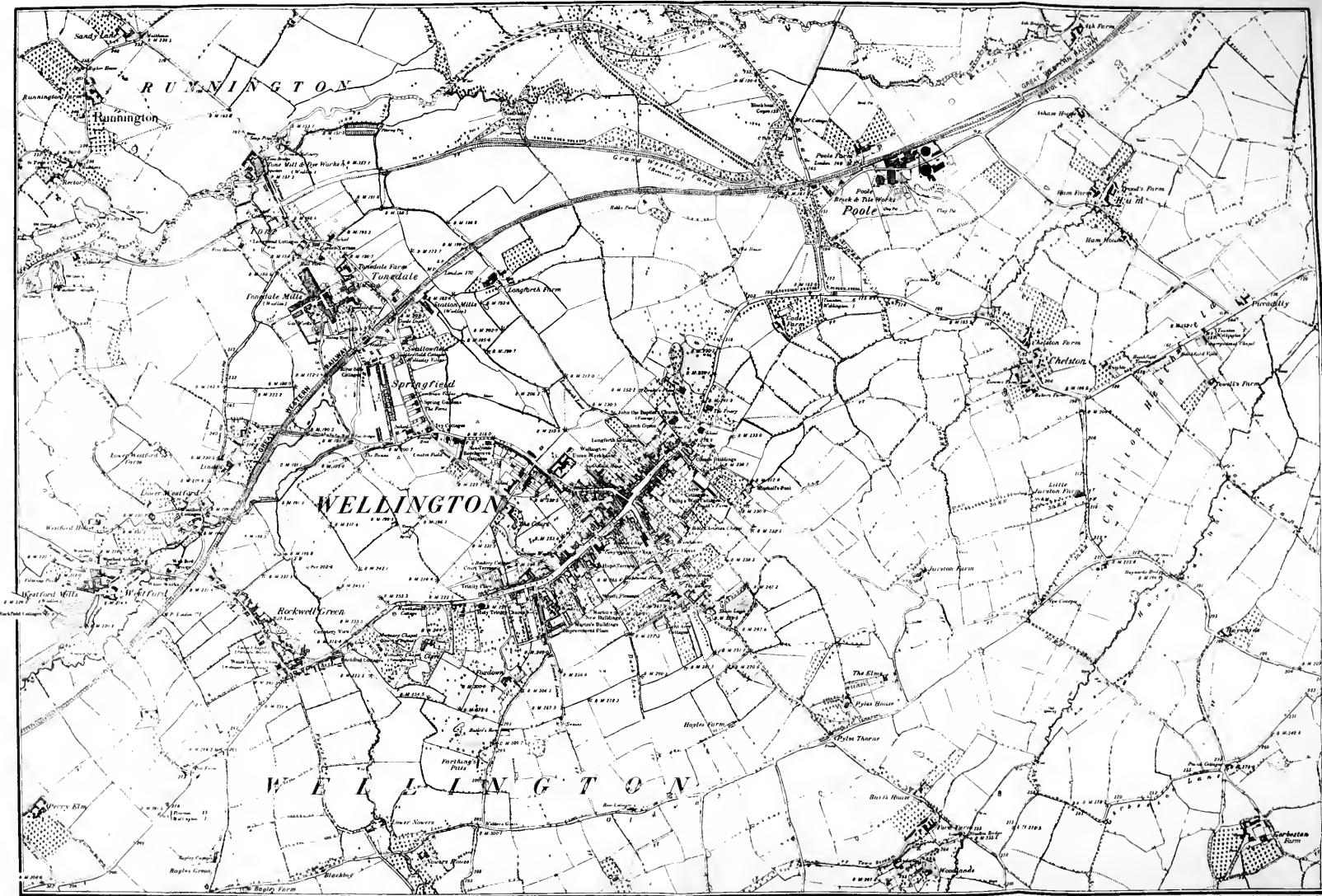
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A MAP TO ACCOMPANY THE HISTORY OF WELLINGTON.



HISTORY OF WELLINGTON.

ETYMOLOGY.

The Patronymic 'ing'—Difficulties of the Theory—Other Derivations—Various ways of spelling the place-name Wellington—Nomenclature of the District—Farm and Field Names—Street Names, &c.

IN dealing with the subject of etymology, it is necessary to speak with caution. The investigation of the origin of local names is a subject so full of knotty points that it is difficult to come to any conclusion at once absolute and final.

There has been much strife over the form of name of which Wellington is a type, and with such varying opinions, it is impossible, without fixed and exact rules to guide us, to arrive at any definite end. The opinions of various scholars as to the etymology of Wellington may, however, be briefly put side by side.

Local names in which the syllable *ing* is found have been thought, by some etymologists, to be derived from Anglo-Saxon patronymics or heads of clans. The late Mr. Kemble believed the name Wellington to be derived from the *Weolinges*, a Saxon tribe settled in this part of the country. It was his further belief that the suffix *ton*, which is accepted as a test word of Saxon colonisation, denoted a filial as opposed to an original or parent settlement.¹

According to this theory, the first inhabitants of Wellington must have been an offshoot of some Teutonic clan; and it is a

¹ Kemble, *Saxons in England*, vol. i. p. 477.

significant fact in favour of Kemble's argument, that on the Blackdown Hills, not far from Church Staunton, there is a hamlet known as Welling. It is quite possible that the earliest English settlers in Wellington came from this place; having first viewed the wide and fertile valley from their point of vantage, they determined to take up a position beneath the hill.

A learned writer, personally known to many in Wellington, warns us against the wideness and ease of this patronymic theory, which, if accepted, degrades all the great gods of the Teutonic mythology into the petty chieftains of outlying hamlets.¹ It is more reasonable to suppose that these local names are derived from those of families named 'either after a living founder, or after some god or hero from the common mythological stock.'

Another derivation which seems reasonable refers the origin of the name to *Gual-eton*, the town of the old wall.² Wellington was quite likely at one time to have marked a boundary between the Celts and the Saxons, and it will be seen below that the Domesday spelling of Wellington is *Walintonia*.³

No etymology is secure unless the earliest forms of the name have been studied. The Domesday form of Wellington (*Walintonia*) suggests also an old English *Weala-tun*, town of the Wealas or Welshmen. But the *ing* of the present form makes it more certain that the Domesday spelling is equivalent to *Wealan-tun*, which can only be the town of *Weala*—a man's name.

The following are different forms of spelling the name of the town taken from old records:—

Walintonia, Gheld Inquest, 1084.	Welinton, 1215.
Welingtune, } 1088.	Welwynton, 1246.
Weolingtun, }	Welyngton, 1248.

¹ Elton, *Origins of English History*, 1885: 374, 375.

² Charnock, *Local Etymology*, 1859.

³ Dr. Guest seems to have inclined to this theory, and points to Wallscombe in the Mendip district as being a boundary between Welsh and English. A place on the Wansdyke itself was once known as the Wall-tyning, or the lost wall.—*Origines Celticæ*, pp. 249, 250.

Wolynton, 1263.	Wellyngton, <i>circa</i> 1540.
Welyngton, 1263.	Wellington, invariable form for
Wolaynton, 1263.	the past 150 years.
Welweton, <i>circa</i> 1380.	

Nomenclature of the District.—It will be well to illustrate from the place-names in this district those which are to be distinguished as either Celtic or Teutonic. The former are very scarce in the neighbourhood, though, as we should expect, the name of our river, the Tone, is a memorial of the earlier race. Other probable Celtic names are as follows :—

Pencross.	Chulmleigh.
Pinnam.	Dunham.
Welshford.	

On the hill above the town we find several places ending in 'combe.' These 'combes' are very plentiful in Somerset.

The following list of names, which have more or less of the Saxon element, could be largely extended. The names are arranged according to termination :—

Higher Stoford.	Westford.
Lower Stoford.	Collyford.
Dipford.	Sampford.
Langford.	Radford.
Ford.	Five Ford.
Harpford.	Bradford.

The suffix 'ford' is significant of the lack of bridges, and the intersection of roads by streams and rivers.

Simmonsborough.	Henborough.
Tidborough.	Wiseborough.

Henborough means simply 'high hill.' The other 'boroughs' may possibly mean forts or hiding-places; or, what is more likely, they are corruptions of *beorge* ('hill').

Budleigh.	Lutley.
Cutsey.	Hagley.
Chipley.	Gansey.
Apley.	Ridley.

The termination 'ley' is equivalent to pasture land. Chipley may possibly mean 'market lea' (*ceap-teage*).

Ham.	Gunham.
Whiteham.	Grinham.
Hoebyham.	

In the S.W. of England the suffix 'ham' means a meadow.

Zillhay.	Cothay.
Hallhays.	Greekhay.
Nicholshays.	Budwellhays.
Peashays.	Millhays.
Grays.	Guanshay.

The termination 'hay' means a place surrounded by a hedge.

Wrathamcot.	Upcot.
Wears Cot.	Whipscot.
Chilcot.	Lower Cots.
Prescot.	Higher Cots.
Lower North Cot.	

'Cot,' a mud cottage, a detached house.

FARM AND FIELD NAMES.

Sperings Close.	CLAYLANDS.
JURSTON.	Smock Meadow.
Rack Close.	Piles Meadow.
PHILLIPS.	HIGHER WESTFORD.
Great Thorney.	Ball Field.
Little Thorney.	Parton Close.
Higher Woodgates.	Bar Close.
Lower Woodgates.	Buds Copse.

Hanging Close.	PROWSE's.
COOKSLEYS.	Blue Balls.
Anthony's Close.	Blindlay.
Burn Beat.	LEGGS.
COURT BARTON & CHALKHAM.	Splatshay.
Watermans Hill.	Nelson's Orchard.
PERRY ELM.	QUARTS.
Higher Downes.	CARSWELLS.
Lower Downes.	LITTLE JURSTON.
Pinland.	Coldharbour.
Gallows Close.	WATERLEATS.
Pit Moor.	HITCHCOCKS.
Brimland.	BROOKS.
Rood.	Great Farthings.
FOXDOWN.	Little Farthings.
LANDOX or LANDCOX.	LANGBRIDGES.
Hammer Close.	Stoney Gore.
Lucy Mead.	Kimmick.
BRIMMERSLAND & FARTHINGS PIT.	RYELANDS.
DOLLINGS AND SMITHS.	PAYTON.
WOODFORDE.	Rack Close.
Easterlands.	Farthing Close.
Great Thorney.	SHATTOCKS GROUND.
MIDDLE GREEN.	GILES.
Rockey Close.	FORD.
HIGHER NOWERS.	Culm Holm.
STALLARDS.	PILES.
COURT HOUSE.	MARSHES.
Frenchmitfield.	Stockey.
HOYLES.	Pillic Mountain.
Smockmead.	Majaliers.
Post Close.	TONEDALE.
	BAGLEY.

HIGHER FORD.	Shelverland.
MOORS AND SCADDINGS.	Crossland.
Lower Snatchcombe.	Breachfield.
Higher Allergrove.	PINKMORE HILL.
Screech Meadow.	BACKWAYS.
HAMMETTS.	PINKMORE.
WEBBERS.	Knappy Willis.
BODLEYS.	Great Willis.
ANDERSEY.	Farthings Mead.
HANGERIDGE.	Hooklands.
BURROW HILL.	GREENSLADES.
White Bread Close.	LOWER NOWERS.
GILLARDS.	HANGRIDGE.
PILES THORN.	Magwellen Close.
SWALLOWFIELD.	Yollands.
MITCHELLS POOL.	Stamps Meadow.
LEYLANDS.	CADES.
DOWLANDS.	Bucketts.
WRANGCOMBE.	BODIE'S WOOD.
Quintins.	Newlands.
Quicks Plot.	Cathenger.
Greedy Close.	Knappy Mead.
SWEETS.	Snatchcombe Meadow.
Higher Coldharbour.	Rough Snatchcombe.
Lower Coldharbour.	STUDHAM.
JEFFRIES.	HIGHER POOLE.
Normans.	MONDAYS.
Burial Field.	SHUTTS AND RICHES.
PARRATTS.	WINNOCKS.
FARTHING DOWN.	LITTLE JURSTON.
CHAPPELLS.	CALWAYS.
BLACKBOY.	Island Close.
GREENLAND.	GLASSES.

TWOSES TENEMENT.	BRYANTS.
Yonder Callands.	Northlands.
Hither Callands.	Jack's Mead.
HENLEYS.	Glass Land.
BURTS.	Silver Six Acres.
Lower Beartfield.	Silver Four Acres.
TROAKES.	Little Shirebutts.
LONGFORTH.	Great Shirebutts.
Higher Stidham.	PARK.
Middle Stidham.	Bowhay.
Yonder Stidham.	Lower Quaintance.
Coods Close.	Higher Quaintance.
Rew.	BEACON LANE.
Old Lane.	Castle.
WINSBIER.	Yonder Castle.
MOORS.	Higher Castle.
WARWICK.	Beacon Lane Side.
Galting Mead.	SHUTTS.
Partridge.	PIT.
Knee Acre.	GIDLANDS.
Captains Close.	TITHINGS.
Little Silver.	Parsons.
FOX MOOR.	Ford.
BIDLANDS.	Westford.
JEWELLS.	Little Tithing.
Cuckoo Land.	Woodford.
Bullbrook.	Perry.
ANDREW'S.	Payton.

NAMES OF STREETS, &c.

Fore Street.—This is, perhaps, equivalent to *Fori Strata*, or Market Street. The objections to this origin are in some measure met by the theory that the ground-plans and ancient lines of streets survive for centuries the houses and buildings which constitute them.¹

Champford Lane.—This is probably a corruption from Sampford Lane, viz., the lane leading to Sampford.

Burgage.—An ancient landmark pointing to a part of the old borough of Wellington. In the more ancient boroughs the lands were held in burgage. This tenure is variously described: (1) A tenure whereby lands or tenements in cities or towns were held of the king or other lord for a certain yearly rent.² (2) Tenure in burgage is where the king or other person is lord of an ancient borough, in which the tenements are held by a rent certaine.³ (3) An important class of socage tenants who held lands of lords by this tenure in towns obtained the distinctive name of burgage tenants.⁴

Pound Lane.—The Pound-house is the name for a place where cider is made. There was such a building in Pound Lane.

Mantle Street.—It is difficult to find any satisfactory origin for this street-name. In the presentments of the Courts Baron and Leet there is frequent mention made of 'Mantells.' Thus at the Court held in Wellington, Oct. 1685, 'Item, wee p'sent Nicholas Bennett for a dangerous mantell and a wall that is faling downe.' A mantell was a projecting fireplace which sometimes had a great deal of wood in it. If the plaster got neglected and out of repair, there was great danger of fire. The frequency with which mantells are mentioned fully proves that at one time they constituted an

¹ *Journal of Arch. Institute*, 1873.

³ *Blackstone, Comm.* 1768.

² *Murray, New Dictionary*, 1888.

⁴ *Digby, Real Property*, 1876.

important item for the town officer's care, and may have originated the name Mantle Street.

Corams Lane.—The family of Coram is a very old one in the town, some member of which is no doubt remembered in this place.

Rack Close.—There are one or two places so called near the town. These mark the spots where, in times gone by, woollen goods were stretched for drying.

Tucking-Mill, the name of a field near the town. A weaver used to be called a 'tucker,' and from this source comes the common surname of Tucker. Tucker Street in Bristol was the centre for the weavers there.¹ Tucking - Mill is a local word for Fuller's stocks or beaters for milling cloth. The term is also applied to the building and machinery as a whole.²

Burts.—The name 'Burts' appears as early as 1676, and although at that time there appears to have been a family of the same name in the town, Thomas Perry was presumably the occupier of a house upon the site of what is now known as Burts.

Pyles Thorne.—Most people here remember the old cottage which stood about sixty yards back from the road, and had an old stone, W. & M. P., 1616 (happily still preserved), let into the front. A story is told of the Pyle family saving sufficient money by selling *thorne* sticks to build the cottage which stood near the present house until about fifteen years ago. Hence the name Pyles Thorne. 'Eliz. Pyle' appears in the churchwardens' accounts of about 1680.

Gallows Field.—Green circles in a field are locally known as 'gallitrap,' and any one setting foot in them is predestined to be hung.³ They are frequently called Pixy rings.⁴

At the time of the Jeffreys assize, carcases in quarters were

¹ Taylor's *Words and Places*, 1885, p. 270.

² Elworthy, *West Somerset Word Book*.

³ *Gents' Magazine*, December 1888.

⁴ Elworthy, *West Somerset Word Book*.

plentifully distributed, and, at a much later period, sheep-stealers and others were hung in numbers. At Halberton, near here, there is a field which goes by the same name, and which had in it a tree with a pitched square underneath.

Buckland: *Buckwell*.—This name, or, as it was originally written, Bocland, signifies land held by book or charter. Land held thus was ranked above folc-land, and a land-owner obtaining a grant of folc-land from the King and Witan would have it elevated to the rank of Bookland or Bocland.¹

Rockwell Green.—Most likely named from the well in the village, though the surname of Rockwell appears in the Registers. The corrupted form of Rogue Green, now spelt Row Green, is suggestive of the moral depravity of the place, in the eighteenth century particularly.

Beacon Lane.—The name of a footpath leading to the Monument Hill points back to a time when signalling by means of fires was usual upon the site of the present pillar.

¹ Digby, *Real Property*.

EARLY HISTORY.

The Expulsion of the Celts—Old Roads—Archæology—Discoveries near West Buckland—Geology.

THE *Expulsion of the Celts*.—Though the scarcity of Celtic names is noticeable, we need not abandon our ideas of Celtic occupation. That a spot lying between Taunton and Exeter, places which have afforded considerable evidence of the presence of the British, and a place so contiguous to the British remains at Norton and Wiveliscombe, at Castle Neroche and on Blackdown, should not have been known to our earliest forerunners, is hardly likely.

Apart from this, we have the story of the conquest of the Celts, and their expulsion after a lapse of time across the borders of Somerset. This conquest of Somerset, from the Avon to the Blackdown, spread over a period of one hundred and thirty-three years. The rate of progress made by the Saxons in penetrating westwards was indeed very slow, and it can be seen that wide intervals of time transpired during which no aggressive work was accomplished by them. But the victory of Centwine in 682 made the English masters of the Quantock district, and drove the Britons to the sea-coast near Watchet.¹

Another interval now occurs between the victory of Centwine and that of Ine in 710, and this interval, like those that went before it, must be accounted for by the continual warfare which was kept up between the various English powers, which prevented any one district from being the seat of war for any lengthened period.

Uncertain and lacking any weighty evidence as many points are, it is impossible not to feel interest in a record of the earliest events

¹ Freeman, *Ine, Som. Arch. Society, 1872.*

which are known to have occurred in this neighbourhood, when the Welsh were being gradually driven from their strongholds across the Western borders of Somerset into Damnonia. Between 682 and 710 it is very probable that the river Tone marked the boundary between the two races. How far westward beyond Wellington the kingdom of Ine extended it is difficult to say. Mr. Freeman thinks it likely that Ine did not push his conquests into Devon, and that the present boundary of the shire near Wellington must mark something pertinent to the extent of his conquests.¹

That this final contest must have taken place near here we are certain, though it is difficult to assign the exact locality. In this battle of 710, Ine and his kinsman, Nun or Nunna, were pitted against Gerent, one of the most important of British princes.² In the chronicles the personality of this chieftain is most clearly marked. He is spoken of as Gerent the King, and in correspondence he is addressed as the 'most glorious lord of this western realm.' On the Blackdown Hills, not far from Forches Corner, there exists, for all historical purposes in name only, Noons Barrow. A careful antiquary is strongly of opinion that Noons Barrow was not only the site of this battle against Gerent, but was so called because it formed the tumulus of Nun.³ Phelps speaks of Noons Barrow, a large tumulus on West Buckland Hill, being in existence when he wrote in 1836.

Old Roads.—The evidence in favour of a British settlement in these parts has been largely confirmed by important relics found in and around Taunton, and by the line of ancient British road which passed through the Vale of Taunton Dean. 'If,' says a well-known antiquary, 'you connect the old road, sometimes known as the old Roman road, which leads from Bathpool to Taunton, with the lane commencing at the Ramshorn Bridge, in the fields west of Belmont, you have a continuation of that strikingly interesting relic of ancient

¹ Freeman, *Ine*, *Som. Arch. Society*, 1872. ² *Ibid.* ³ Davidson, *British and Roman Remains*.

British times, which terminates near Stone Gallows, on the road to Wellington.¹ Mr. Hugo, after years of local residence and antiquarian pursuits of the first order, believed that this road was constructed anterior to Roman times, and that there was no doubt but that it was used by the Romans. He further detected an old road through Galmington and Wellington, into Devonshire. It is quite likely that this road, which has been referred to as terminating at Stone Gallows, was continued by a route which lay contiguous to Wellington. The traces in names which we find along the line of route bring us to this conclusion. Silver Street occurs twice, and there are also such names as Oldbeat, Oldway, Maiden Down, and Coldharbour.

From a map of early Somerset, which has been prepared by Mr. Scarth, it may be seen that there were extensive British and Roman settlements lying to the north-west of Wellington, between Exmoor and Wiveliscombe. On the south also there have been found British remains on Blackdown, and a very important camp at Castle Neroche, lying on the route of an old Roman road. It is only reasonable to suppose that some means of communication had to be found for connecting the several minor settlements on the north-west of Wellington with those more important centres which have just been named as lying to the south. A reference to Scarth's map shows us that one of the principal Roman roads, after passing Castle Neroche, joined the continuation of the old Fosse Road, a little south of Chard. This Fosse road was no doubt the principal and only direct thoroughfare through the county, and was in a straight line with Bath, the *Aquaë Solis* of centuries gone by. From Dunster, Luxborough, Treborough, and Wiveliscombe, there must have been some road in a southerly direction, passing a little west of Wellington, probably. A line drawn through the map from Wiveliscombe to Blackdown might pass through Langford, Harpford, Westford, Little Silver, and a road cut in the same direction by preferring

¹ Pring, *Britain and the Romans*, p. 119.

to climb the hill by an easier ascent, might have turned to the left at the foot and passed through Ford Street, which is an undoubted mark of a Roman road.

Bishop Clifford, in a paper on the *Iter XII.* of Antoninus' *Itinerary*, helps us somewhat. Treating of that part of the *Iter* which leads from Exeter to Caerleon, he traces its second stage along the course of a road marked in an old map of Devonshire, as being in a direct line from Hembury Fort to Culm Bridge, crossing the downs and entering the Vale of Taunton, somewhat east of the Wellington monument. The Bishop then refers to the names in the district, such as Ford Street, Silver Street, Stert, and Oldway. These places, it is true, all suggest the lines of an ancient road, but those who are acquainted with the locality immediately south of the town, know that a line of road, going from Hembury Fort towards Taunton Vale, if it passed through Oldway, would not pass through Ford Street.

Archæology.—On the site of the town no implements of the stone or bronze period have been discovered, or, at any rate, preserved. This is in great measure owing to the fact that no capable person has ever undertaken research in or very near the town. And there is no doubt, judging from the curious remains found but a short way from Wellington, that much might be done in the direction of bringing to light some materials for the archæological history of the town, if undertaken by a proper pick-and-shovel antiquary. A residence in the neighbourhood is of course indispensable for this work, and it may confidently be recommended to the Archæological Society.

The remains discovered nearest to the town are those at West Buckland, two miles from Wellington. Here, a few years ago, was found a palstave with a section in the form of the letter H, a shape difficult to forge. With this instrument, there were also discovered a torque and a bracelet, together with some charcoal and burnt bones, but without any sign of a tumulus.¹ These interesting relics are now in the possession of Mr. W. A. Sanford, of Nynehead Court.

¹ Evans, *Bronze*, pp. 95, 96.

Six or seven years ago these local discoveries were shown at a meeting of the Royal Archæological Society, and some further particulars given of them by Mr. Sanford.¹ They appear to have been found whilst a drain was being dug about a hundred yards below the railway bridge that crosses the Tone between Wellington and Taunton on the Great Western Railway, and about forty yards from the river. The torque was broken whilst being dug up, and a portion of the bracelet could not be found.

Referring to these, Mr. Sanford also stated that two other bronze celts, of the same character as those found with the torque and bracelet, were discovered some years ago on the top of a low hill in the parish of Nynehead, about a mile and a half from the site of the West Buckland find, on a hill called Barrows, where are slight indications of earthworks. The late Mr. Warre traced a small 'pah' on the hill, and polished flints have also been found in the valley of the Tone below it; also a British urn in one locality, Roman copper coins in another; and of an earlier period, but still at the same depth, the remains of mammoth and other prehistoric animals. It is evident from the appearance and grain of the bronze that the torque was twisted and not cast, the metal having been previously shaped for the spirals. The double looped celt (palstave) is remarkable and very rare, not more than three or four having been found in England. The bracelet is flat on the inside and not *repoussé*; it has apparently been cast in a mould, and the delicate marks cut with a tool.

A few miles to the S.W. of Wellington on the Blackdown Hills, there have been found several hundred round pits, in some of which charred coal and pottery have been found.² They are called iron pits, and what is apparently an erroneous idea has thereby got currency, that these are iron mines.

Geology.—The rough surface of the hills round Wellington has

¹ *Archæological Journal*, vol. 37, p. 107.

² Dyer, *Commentary on Richard's Iter XVI.*, Exeter, 1816.

been produced by the refuse which has been shot out of a series of pits or galleries running horizontally into the hill. These excavations have been made by men quarrying for the whetstones, for which Blackdown still is famous.¹

To this whetstone industry we are mainly indebted for our knowledge of the abundant fossil fauna of these hills.

The Blackdowns have been described as consisting lithologically of—

- I. An impersistent capping of chalk flints in a clayey matrix.
- II. Chert beds of varying thickness.
- III. Greensand, containing highly fossiliferous bands with concretions, the whole being very nearly horizontally stratified.

The soil of the district is composed of red sandstone and conglomerates. The quarries of Westleigh form an important item in economic geology.²

¹ *Papers by Downes in Devonshire Transactions.*

² *De la Beche, chap. vii.*

MANORIAL.

The Gift of the Manor—Descent of the Manor—Domesday—The Charter—Testa de Nevill and The Valor Ecclesiasticus—Courts Baron and Leet—Manor Court Rolls—Subsidy Rolls—Close Rolls—Custom of the Manor—Survey of the Manor in 1649—Miscellaneous.

THE earliest historical account of Wellington dates from the reign of Alfred, who gave the Manors of Wellington, Buckland, and Lydeard, to Asser, the tutor of his children; which Asser was afterwards advanced to the see of Sherborne, and died in that dignity A.D. 883.¹ This account does not altogether agree with Camden's assertion that Edward the Elder—son of King Alfred—gave Wellington, which was the land of six tenants, and Lidiard, which had twelve tenants, to the Bishop of Sherborne. (See Charter.) After Asser's decease and the institution of the Bishopric of Wells by Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, the manors above mentioned were conferred by the King on Aldhelm, the first Bishop of this diocese, for the support and maintenance of his episcopal honour. To him succeeded Wifelinus, Elfeth, Wifhelm, Brithelm, monk of Glastonbury, Kineward, Sigar, Aldwyn, Burwold, Leoning, Ethelwyn, Brithwyn, Merewith, Dudoca, and Giso, successive Bishops of this diocese and owners of this manor before the Norman Conquest.

Bishop William Button obtained of King Henry III. a charter of free warren for his manor of Wellington; and in the time of Edward I. the lands belonging to the bishopric in Wellington and

¹ Collinson, *History of Somerset.*

Buckland were valued at 60*l.* The manor continued in the possession of the bishopric till 2 Edward VI., when Bishop Barlow granted it, together with the borough of Wellington, with lands there and divers other appurtenances, to Edward, Duke of Somerset, and his heirs, to be held of the King 'as of his manor of Muchelney in free socage by fealty only.' In the MS. schedule of the said Duke, the manor of Wellington is valued at 37*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, and the borough at 6*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* Upon the Duke's attainder it came to the Crown, where it continued till 22 James I., when it was granted in fee to Sir James Fullerton and James Maxwell,¹ who in the same year granted it to feoffees in trust for Sir Francis Popham, son of Sir John Popham, Lord Chief Justice, whose heirs enjoyed it for several descents. At the end of the last century the manor was the property of Herbert Sawyer. The borough belonged to Thomas Harrison. Since then the manor has been held by the Dukes of Wellington.

It will be seen from this that the manor continued to be ecclesiastical property until 2 Edward VI., when the young King, acting on the advice of the Duke of Somerset, laid claim to almost all the temporalities of the see of Bath and Wells, Wellington being among them.² Bishop Barlow was thus deprived of almost all means of living. 'Indenture between the Bishop and the High and Mighty Prince Edward, duke of Somerset, &c. The Bishop as well for great somes of money to him beforehand paid by the

¹ 1624, July 7, Declaration of the King's pleasure to grant to Sir James Fullerton and James Maxwell the manor and borough of Wellington, co. Somerset, and other manors, etc., in part of the grant of lands, value 300*l.* per annum, to be passed at the suit of Jane Murray and her son, notwithstanding their being contained in the indenture of annexation to the Crown, and the required certificate from Council being absent. Grant to Sir James Fullerton and James Maxwell of the manor of Wellington, co. Somerset, and other lands, etc., on rental of 299*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, and SIX OUNCES OF PEPPER, their clear value, in full satisfaction of a grant of lands, value 300*l.*, made in consideration of services to the Prince, to the late Thomas Murray, and of surrender by his wife and son of a pension of 50*l.* for life.—*State Papers, Domestic.*

² *Som. Arch. Proceedings*, 1868-9, pp. 17, 18.

said Duke, as for diverse other great considerations him moving, and by the licence of our Sovereign Lord the King under his Great Seale of England, &c. . . . hath sold unto the said Duke, &c., his manors of Banwell, Wells, Chew, Blackford, Wellyngton, Cranemere, and Evercuche, and his burgh of Wellyngton, and also his Hundreds of Wells and Wells Forum, Wynterstoke, and Chew, &c. Also all his rights and jurisdictions, &c., in all those manors in Somerset. Made on July 12, 2 E. VI.¹

During a rule by nearly fifty successive lords, who, though spiritual in name, had nevertheless temporal jurisdiction over the manor, Wellington must have experienced many vicissitudes under a rigorous execution of feudal discipline.

The portion of land which fell into the hands of monastic and religious houses was very large, and owed much to the munificence of private donors ; and it is natural that the power which was wielded by the early English Church, and the veneration in which it was held, should have caused to gravitate towards it the control of the lands within touch of the precincts of the various religious houses.² Whether Wellington may congratulate itself upon having such a long ecclesiastical rule is a question open to doubt. It is asserted on good authority that places attached to religious houses gained their franchise much later than those under strictly private and temporal or lay authority.³

Domesday.—The object of the survey made by William the Conqueror, the result of which is known to us as *Domesday Book*, was that every man should know and be satisfied with his rightful possessions, and not with impunity usurp the property of others. Furthermore, those who possessed land were enabled to tell more exactly what stake they had in the country, and the King, on his part, could ascertain pretty accurately the revenues of the Crown and its possessions, and from the register or roll of the principal inhabitants the numerical strength of the civil and military powers could be ascertained.

¹ *Hist. MSS. Report, Wells*, p. 236.

² Birch, *Domesday Book*, 1887.

³ *Som. Arch. Proceedings*, 1868-9, Part II., p. 11.

The surveys of the various counties differ in merit very much, some commissioners having done their work less prosaically than others. The commissioners who did the Somersetshire survey produced much less interesting results than those who laboured in other counties.¹ What Somerset does, however, possess, and which is of great value, in common with the four other south-western counties, is the *Gheld Inquest* of 1084, which is the result of the levy of *Dane Geld* by King William just previous to the ordinary *Domesday*, and its special value lies in the fact that it gives us the names of the old *Hundreds* into which the county was divided.²

The *Domesday* (1086) Report is as follows:—‘The same Bishop (*i. e.* Giso) holds Walintone. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for fourteen hides. The arable is thirty carucates. Thereof in demesne are three hides, and there are four carucates, and thirty-one servants, and fifty-three villanes, and sixty-one cottagers, with twenty-five ploughs. There are two mills of fifteen shillings rent, and one hundred and five acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. Wood three furlongs long, and as much broad. Of the land of this manor John holds of the Bishop two hides of the villanes’ land. The whole is worth twenty-five pounds.’

‘To this manor is added one hide which Alvera held in the time of King Edward for a manor. The arable is three carucates, and there are with it eight villanes, and four cottagers, and one servant. There are five acres of meadow. Wood three furlongs long, and as much broad. It is worth thirty shillings.’³

¹ ‘All Somerset and Devon is done in a very meagre way.’—Professor Freeman, *Exeter*, p. 43.

² Eyton, *Domesday Studies*, I., p. 2.

³ A *Carucate* is now recognised as an area that one plough could till annually. It is a little curious that this word should have been chosen in preference to *aratum*. The unsettled origin of the *Hi.e* is partly owing to the variety in extent which it represents in various parts of the country, a variety which is in proportion to the fertility or arability of the land in question. Mr. Eyton estimates the extent of the *Hide* in Somersetshire to average about 250 acres. The *Domesday Mill* was an appurtenance of the manor and belonged to the lord. Its most general use was for corn-grinding.

At the time of the Gheld Inquest (1084) Wellington was assessed in what was then known as the Bishop's Hundred or Bishop Giso's land (*Episcopi Gisonis Terra*). This larger Hundred was then estimated to contain 218 hides, of which Wellington contributed fourteen and West Buckland one hide, which were respectively valued in Domesday at 24*l.* and 1*l.* The old Hundred, known as the Bishop's Hundred, has now been divided into four distinct franchises, and Wellington is correctly stated by Collinson to be in the Hundred of Kingsbury West, a name which was adopted as involving manors which lay west of the Hundred of Kingsbury East, and not because it included a manor of Kingsbury West (for there was no such manor). This section of the Episcopal Hundred included the four Domesday manors of Wiveliscombe, Wellington, Bishops Lydeard, and Ash Priors. The Domesday Wellington must be understood to include West Buckland.

The Charter relating to the original grant by King Edward of three villes—Wellington, Buckland, and Lideard—is, perhaps, the most valuable contribution to the history of this town. The following is the first translation that I am aware has ever been printed, and it is from the text of Mr. Birch's copy,¹ which is the result of a comparison of the several transcripts which are in existence. The date of the original (Anglo-Saxon) is A.D. 904.

The transcript from which Kemble² printed his copy is in the British Museum,³ a late copy, very much abridged and incorrectly transcribed. There is also a copy at Wells,⁴ and a transcript by Hardy in the Record Office.

The Charter, besides referring to Wellington and West Buckland, gives the Bishop's Lydeard boundaries. I have ventured to print the whole text, however, rather than cut out any portion referring to a manor which, although part of the original gift, is not now connected with Wellington.

¹ *Cartularium Saxonum*, 610.

² Kemble, *Codex*, No. MLXXXIII.

³ *MSS. Cotton Vitellius E. v. f. 124b.*

⁴ *Reg. [album] Eccl. Wellensis*, iii. f. 290.

CHARTER.

Grant by King Edweard to Asser, bishop of Sherborne, of lands at Weolingtun, Bocland, and Lidgeard, i. e., Wellington, West Buckland, and Bishops Lydeard, in exchange for the Monastery of Plymentun, co. Devon.

IN the name of our lord Jesus Christ. Our lord Jesus Christ, reigning for ever, and disposing and governing all things from the highest point of heaven, we perceive that all things temporal and present perish [and] glide away, and pass off, at one time manifestly by the mature dispensations [and] ends of God their governor, at an other time by the impending attackes of secular affairs, that is by the slaughteres of wars, by the burnings of towns and districts, by the dispersals of booties, by the increase of weakness, and other innumerable existing causes, [therefore] lest those things which have been done in our times should seem to be delivered up to oblivion, we have taken care manifestly to set them out with the points of letters.

Wherefore I, Edweard, by the favouring clemency of God king of the Anglo-Saxons, have given three towns, that is Weolingtun a land of six manents (or hides), and Bocland a land of five hides, and Lidgeard a land of twelve hides, to Asser the bishop of the church of Sherborne and to that monastery (or body), for the sake of exchange of that monastery which is called in Saxon Plymentun, on both sides in perpetual inheritance both to me and to them, with all things thereunto appertaining, that is, men and cattle, woods, fields, meadows, pastures, fisheries, to hold for their days, and to bequeath to any soever their successors coming after them to that see, as long as there shall be any Christianity in this land, without any tax or charge due to any earthly man, except the three matters, that is military expedition and the building of castle and bridge.

If any one wish to keep and to augment this, may God increase for him his present goods, and may he reach the heavenly joys; but if any one, which we desire not, shall have dared at the instigation of the devil to breake or diminish this, let him know that he shall render an account before the judgment-seat of Christ on that fearful and terrible day of judgment, unless before it in this present life he shall have atoned for it with

enduring and pure penitence. And if any one shall have profferred another charter of inheritance against this detailed notice of our gift, let it be of no avail before God and man, and let him who shall have profferred it be anathematized here and hereafter.

† EDWEARD THE KING.

† ASSER THE BISHOP.

† BEORHTMUND THE PRIEST.

† BEOCCA THE PRIEST.

† ABBUD THE PRIEST.

† WYNSIGE.

† WULFRIC.

† TIDA THE PRIEST.

† BUGA THE THEAGN.

† WULFHHERE THE THEAGN.

† LUHHA.

† EARDULF.

† WULFSIGE.

† SIBBA.

† BEORNSTAN.

† ÆDELSTAN.

† ÆLFSIGE.

† BEORHTULF.

† WYNSIGE.

† WULFSIGE.

† BEOHTSIGE.

† EADSTAN.

† ÆLSIGE.

† LEOFHEH.

† LEOFSTAN.

† WYNSIGE.

† These be the land boundaries of Bocland and Welingtune. First upon the down of Achanger, from Achanger down to Sandford's land boundaries, then down in the old dyke, then to Sandford, then along the old way to Cytelwell, from Cytelwell along the stream to Tan, down along Tan-stream to Boadanford, then along stream to Herpoth-ford, then on the public war-path to the estas (? east), then to the land boundaries of Stanford, then up to Fiduc along the land boundaries so up to the mere brook to Byrnan rise (or ridge), then on the public war-path, so again to Achanger.

† These be the land boundaries of Lidgerd. First at Linlege, from Linlege upon the stream to Costanford, from Cottanford upon the stream to Gosford, from Gosford upon the stream to Stanford, from Stanford to Fasingafeld, from Fasingafeld to Pytt (*i.e.* pit) apple-tree, from pit apple-tree to Æst (? east), from Æst down cousled (*i.e.* cow's plain) to Readan-cliff, from Readancliff to Ruwanbeorh, from Ruwanbeorh to Ludanwell, from Ludanwell to Fricanfen, from Fricanfen upon the stream to Galtibrige, from Galtibrige to Wibbanwell, upon a slade (*or* plain) to hollow way, from hollow way upon a slade to Bacganbeorh, from Bacganbeorh to

Wynestan, from the stone to Ruwanbeorh, from the hill to Cwichenhain, from the ham to Collelade, from Collislade down on the stream to Hor-spadesford, from the ford upon the stream to Oxen-gate, from the gate (*i.e.* gap or opening) to Motlege, from Motlege to Fideroc's tor, from Fideroc's tor to Frecanthorn, from Frecanthorn to Snoccanmere, from Snoccanmere to Stangedelf (*i.e.* stone quarry) to Reodabras (*i.e.* reed-elders), from the reed-elders to Tideford, from the ford down on the stream to Cunecanford, from Cunecanford to King's gate, from King's gate to Sour apple-tree, from Sour apple-tree that it comes again to Linlege.

TESTA DE NEVILL.

Inquisitions temp. Henry III. and Edward I. respecting fees held of the King.

SOMERSET, HUNDRED DE RIDELAWE.

Sergeanty of Richard de Wygeberghe in Pegnesse, Kanington, Hunestill, and Welington, for which he owes service to the King, as doorkeeper in the Great Hall, for a whole year. It is alienated in part.

Item, the Prior of the Hospital of St. John at Wellington holds three virgates of land valued at 30s. yearly.

SURVEY OF CHURCH PROPERTY.

(Valor Ecclesiasticus, 27 Henry VIII.)

DIOCESS OF BATH AND WELLS.

Possessions of the Bishopric.—Until 27 Henry VIII. the first-fruits and tenths of all benefices were forwarded to Rome, but in that year a fresh valuation was made and the substance levied in future transferred to the Crown.

Value in Wellington.—

Rents of the free and customary tenants there yearly, less for the fee of Laurence Husey, bailiff there, 21s. 9½d.	So now clear £80 18 6½	} cxxxij iij x½
Perquisites of the Court 0 68 10		
Fines on land 30 0 0		

Value in Buckland.—

Rents of customary tenants there yearly, less 21s. for the fee of William Thomas, bailiff there.	} £54 1 11½
So now clear £48 12 3½	
Perquisites of the Court and other fees 0 9 8	

Fines on land there 5 0 0

(In English in the 'Valor'.)

Wellyngton value in rents as well of the customary tenants 11l. 8s. 1½d. there as of the prædial Tithes [tithes on wood, corn, &c.] there and att Bucklond, part thereof £40 so let by indenture, perquisits of the courts 20d., from which deduct 8s. rent paid to the Bishop of Bath, and 26s. 8d. for the fee of Edmond Bagwell, bailiff there, so remains clear £49 15 1½

Inquisition held at Wells, co. Somerset, 2 Oct. 16 Eliz., before Gilbert, bishop of Bath and Wells, John Rugge, clerk, Archdeacon of Wells, William Boureman, Geoffrey Uppeton and Geo. Rodney, esquire, commissioners, and a Jury. The Jury say on oath that to the deanery of Wells belongs (with others) the Rectory of Wellington and Buckland in the said county with the customary tenements to the said Rectory belonging, that the said Rectory, &c., formerly belonged and pertained to the office of prepositor in the Cathedral of Wells, and now belongs to the said deanery of Wells by right and virtue of an Act of the Parliament held at Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, 4 day of Nov^r, 1 Edw. vj. . . . the said

Rector of Wellington and Buckland, with the customary lands belonging to it, is of the yearly value, after the deduction of all charges, of £50 0s. 2½d.

Dignitaries of the Cathedral Church of Wells.—Archdeaconry of Taunton—Richard Sampson, Archdeacon, account shown. Wellington, belonging to the proposito of Wells. Rents of the customary tenants there, £11 8s. 1½d., less the predial tithes. So let by indenture, £40, perquisites of the court and other fees, 16d., deducting 8s. for rent allowed to the Bishop of Bath and Wells yearly, and 26s. 8d. for the fee of Edmond Bagwill, bailiff there, remaining clear £49 14 9½

Wellyngton, with the Chapel of Buckland annexed. William Squyer, vicar.—

William Rawlyns, prepositor of the cathedral Church of Wells according to account shown.

Nothing deducted from this but the charge for the official of the said church as shown.

Vicarage there [Wellington] yearly value, viz. in land 100s., predial tenths 111s. 7½d., tenths of wool and lambs 78s. 4d., offerings and personal tenths, £7 0s. 1d. ... £21 x 0½

Pence paid yearly to the Chaplain from thence to celebrate divine service in the before said chapel annexed, according to the account made £6 0 0

There remains clear ...

£15 10 0½

P. 225. Stipends and allowances of tenths to Chaplains.—

Deanery of Taunton. Yearly stipend of the chaplain to celebrate divine service in the chapel of Buckland joined to the Vicarage of Wellyngton £6 0 0

This sum of £6 charged for the chaplain of Buckland is deducted by a decree made Mich. term, 37 Henry viii.

Burgesses of Wellington, Possessions in.—

Rents there yearly, as in accounts before given)

£6 4 4

Perquisites of the Court, &c. ... 0 24 1

£7 7 5

Courts Baron and Leet.—The power which these Courts possessed has since 1873 been transferred to a more modern municipal institution, the Local Board. But the antiquity which hangs around these Courts gives them a peculiar charm. It is to be hoped that the steward of the manor will not abandon the regular election of parish officers which has taken place annually since the early part of the thirteenth century, when the charter of King John granted that all men of Axbridge, Welynton, and Cherde, free tenants and born in the same, should be free of toll. This enfranchisement, of course, marks a very interesting epoch in the history of the town, for from this date the lord's steward was done away with, and the Portreeve and other officers came into power to see justice done between the lord and his tenants, and to see after the interests of the town.¹ The following interesting document from the Patent Rolls refers to freedom from toll, and to three curious exemptions defined below :—

*Exemplification for the Bishop and Dean and Chapter of the Church of Wells, and also the Prior and Monastery of Bath.*²

THE KING TO ALL, &c. Know ye that the Lord John, formerly King of England, our ancestor, by his charter, granted to God, and the blessed Andrew of Wells, and the Dean and Canons of the same church, and blessed Peter of Bath, and the Prior and Monastery of the said church, and to Jocelyn, at that time Bishop of the said church, and his successors: That they and all their men have exemption from toll for ever for all our land. And we, by our charter, confirm this, and further grant for us and our heirs, to the venerable father Ralph, now bishop of the said place, the Dean and Chapter of the church of the blessed Andrew at Wells,

¹ The following officers are still annually elected :—Portreeve, Bailiff, Water Bailiff, Constable, Scavenger, Searcher and Sealer of Green Hides, Ale-taster, Bellman, and Clerk of the Market.

² Patent Roll, 19 Edw. III., Part I., Membrane 13.

and the Prior and Monastery of the blessed Peter of Bath, that they and their successors, and all their men and tenants, that is to say, the burgesses of Wells, Axbrigg, Welynton, and Cherde, with other free tenants and natives of the same, may have exemption from toll, pickle,¹ pannage,² and kaiage,³ on all goods, and all our land and liberties as in the said charter confirmed by us is fully contained. We have, at the suit of the said Bishop and Dean and Chapter and the Prior and Monastery, ordered this grant and confirmation, &c. Given by the King at the Tower of London, the second day of May [1345].

Manor Court Rolls.—The Manor Court Rolls are unfortunately not to be found. All that we possess locally are the presentments of the Court from 1815 to the present time, and some stray presentments about two hundred years old, which are given below.⁴ Many of the entries in the following are of extreme interest. The offences for which inhabitants of the town were ‘presented’ give an insight into some curious points of social history.

Wellington and West Buckland, 1662.

The presentment of Georg Campe, Simon Bennett, Thomas Syle, and James Norman, copyy holders within the said manner.

IMPRIMIS. Wee p'sent all these that made default of appearing and ought to do suit and service to this court.

ITEM. Wee p'sent the Death of Simon Cade since the last Court, and his daughter Mary Cade to bee the next tenant.

ITEM. Wee p'sent Simon Bennett's house of copyhold in default for want of thatching.

ITEM. Wee p'sent the said Simon Bennett for not getting a gate Betweene the widow Perryes court and his. Hee is to repayre his house in thatching, and to set up hys gates where he

¹ Money paid for breaking the ground to set up booths at fairs.

² Food that swine, &c., feed on in woods. ³ Toll paid on loading or unloading goods.

⁴ Serel MSS.

ought to doe betwixt this and the next court to bee held for this manner upon Payne of 10s. 6d.

Wee George Campe, Simon Bennett, Thomas Syle, and James Norman, affyerers, doe affire and amerce all ye defaulters of this court 3d. a peece, and of the last court 3d. a peece, this 21st of Aprill, 1662.

The next presentment is of date 29 September, 1662, and states that Simon Bennett had neither thatched his house nor 'sett up a gate.'

Wellington.

A P'SENTMENT made the 29th day of Septembr at the Co^{tt} Baron of the right hon^{ble} Rob^t Creyghton, doctor in divinity and deane of the Cathedrall churche of Wells, lord of the s^d manno^r, in the yeare of o^r Lord god 1663.

IMP^{ss}. Wee p'sent John Hodgson for not repairing his water Course leading through the entry. Day is given him till O^r Lady day next upon Payne of 0s. 5d.

Signed by

THOMAS SILT,
ROBERT BARRELL,
HENRY LEY,
SIMON BENNETT.

Wellington, 1664.

WEE p'sent Thomas Syle for not hanging up of the dore against the highway leadeing into y^e churchyard. Day is given him to doe y^e same by y^e fifth day of Nov^r next on Payne of vjs. viijd.

Wee p'sent George Kempe's mantell to bee out of repaire. Day is given him to doe y^e same by the fifth day of Nov^r next on Payne of vjs. viijd.

GEORGE KEMPE,
ROBT. BARRELL,
JOHN HUDSON.

Wellington and Buckland.

THE p'sentment of the homag of the said mann^r there held, 25th day of April, 1670.

ITEM. Wee p'sent that Rob^t Perrys house is in default of walling, Timbring, and Thatching, and that he sufficiently repaire the same before o^r next Court upon paine of 6s. 8d.

RALPH BRYANT.

(*Other signatures torn off.*)

Wellington, 1671.

ITEM. Wee p'sent Rob^t perry for not reparange his stable: time is given him to repaire it by the next court on paine of vs.

ROBERT PERRY,
JAMES FURZELAND,

Wellington Manno^r, 1672.

ITEM. Wee present Mrs. Whithed for spitting up the ground on the deanes Land, and carring^e it upon M^y Lord S^r Ffrancis Pophams land.

ITEM. Wee p'sent Robert Perry for littinge downe of his out-house; hee is to repaire it by the next Court on Payne of vs.

ITEM. Wee p'sent the well before James Charples house is out of repaire, and the Waywardens is to keepe it in repaire.

WILLIAM CAPE,
and others.

1673.

ITEM. Wee continue the p'sentment ag^t Richard ffoord for not repairinge the Castway (causeway) before his dore time is given him to repaire the same by the next Court, on paine of xs.

THOMAS SYLE,
JAMES FURZELAND,
and others.

Wellington.

THE p'sentment of Homage att Manno^r at Court there held on Wednesday, the 18th day of October, 1676.

IT^r. Wee p'sent the Caseway before Richard fford's houses is much in decaye for want of repayereinge. Time is given him to repaire the same by the 20th day of November next on payne of 13^s. 4^d.

IT^r. Wee p'sent John Perrys Caseway to be in decaye time is given him to repaire y^e same by the 20th day of November next on paine of 6^s. viij^d.

JOHN HUDSON,
JOHN PERRY,
and others.

Wellington, 1677.

WEE p'sent the death of Anne Syle, whoe dyed since the last Court, and whether there is a herriott due wee knowe not, and Anne Hussey to bee the next Tennant.

NICHOLAS BENNETT,
and others.

Wellington, 1678.

WE p'sent the churchouse mantle to bee in decay, and to be repaired by y^e churchwardens of y^e p'ish by y^e 29th of June next on paine of x^s.

NICHOLAS BENNETT,
and others.

Wellington.

A P'SENTMENT made att the Court Baron of the Right Hon^{ble}. Lord Bathurst, Deane of the Cathedrall Church of Wells, held the 8th day of October, 1685.

ITEM. Wee p'sent Nicholas Bennett for a dangerous mantell, and a Wall that is faling downe, to be repaired by the next Court on paine of 20^s.

ITEM. Wee p'sent Richard fford in Right of his Wife for severall dangerous mantells and for not repairing his houses, to bee repaired by the next Court on payne of 2*s*.

RALPH BRYANT,
THOMAS STUBBS,
and others.

1687.

ITEM. We p'sent Nick. Bennett for 2 dangerous mantles, to be repaired by the next Court one the payment of 40*s*.

GEORGE COCKRAM,
and others.

Wellington.

THE acct of George Colborne, Bailiffe, for one yeare from Mich^s 1688 to Mich^s 1689.

Rents of y ^e Manor yearly	...	...	...	£	10	06	11
The Stint rents yearly	...	...	...	01	05	00	
				£	11	11	11
P ^d in money at Lady Day, 1689	...	...	2	10	00		
P ^d Mr. Basset after Mich ^s , 1689, in money	...	03	00	00			
Allow ^d his salary	...	...	01	06	08		
Allow ^d M ^r Pophams rent	...	...	00	07	00		
Allow ^d y ^e Stint rents not rec ^d	...	...	00	07	08		
Allow ^d him rent overcharg ^d in the rent roll	...	00	03	06			
Allow ^d him more upon his bill for Journaies and Expences in y ^e Deans businesse	...	00	05	06			

Wellington Manner, 1692.

ITEM. We p'sent Nicholas Bennett for cutting downe Greate Limms from his Apple trees contrary to Good Husbandry.

GEORGE COCKRAM,
and others.

Nov. 7, 1748.

The Deane of Wells demised and granted to W^m Procter Thomas ffour closes of land and pasture with appurtenances called Longforth, containing 14 acres.¹

SUBSIDY ROLLS

(RECORDS OF THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER).

1 Edw. iii.

BOKELONDE.²

De Nicholao Rocholf	ij.s.
Johanne atte Purie	iijs.
Thoma atte Forsen	ixd.
Thoma le Brok	... ix.d.
Jonanne Fayrher	... iijs.
Willelmo Cole	... vjd.
Thoma Boot	... xvijd.
Waltero Russel	... xvijd.
Roberto Colyer	... ijs.
Nicholao Forthyng	iijs.
Thoma atte Lane	... vjd.
Willelmo Stoonhard	xijd.
Johanne Spryng	... iijs. vjd.
Roberto le Lang	... ijs.
Willelmo Brok	... xijd.
Willelmo Godewyne	xijd.
Johanne atte Wodechete	xijd.
Galfrido de More	... ijs.
Waltero de More	... ijs.
Petro atte Rewe	... ijs.
Waltero Russel	... xijd.
Willelmo Playz	... ijs.

BOKELONDE—continued.

De Roberto Gylle	...	xijd.
Waltero Gylle	...	xijd.
Philippo atte Lake	...	ixd.
Johanne Nybbe	...	ij.s.
Richardo atte Nassch	vs. ³	
Richardo Rogge	...	iiij.s.
Crist: Flanneres	...	ij.s.
Summa xx ^e villate predicte	...	Ljs. ix.d.

WELEYNTONE.

De Ade Gordon	...	xijd.
Petro Chanel	...	iijs.
Johanne Frysel	...	ij.s.
Johanne Richer	...	xijd.
Richardo Orweye	...	xijd.
Johanne Chylemonde	iijs.	
Philippo atte Leygth	...	xi.d.
Philippo atte Leygth juniore	...	xij.
Galfrido Clerico	...	xijd.
Johanne Harold	...	ij.s.

¹ Serel MSS.

² *Subsidy Rolls of the Exchequer Court*, Ed. by Dickinson.

³ At an ash.

WELYNGTONE—*continued.*

De Johanne de Cher-	
pham ¹ ijs.	
Willelmo Page ... ix.d.	
Richardo Red ... xij.d.	
Nicholao atte Chur-	
cheye ijs.	
Thoma atte More ... xij.d.	
Thoma Roto ... xij.d.	
Philippo Fychet ... xvij.d.	
Johanne Boveweye ... xij.d.	
Summa xx ^e villate	
predicte... xxvjs.	

PURYE CUM PAYTONE.

De Willelmo atte	
Purye ijs.	
Waltero atte Purye iiijs.	
Richardo atte Purye xvd.	
Johanne Toweye ... xvij.d.	
Philippo Frynk ... ijs.	
Galfrido Cnyth ... xij.d.	
Adam atte Welle ... iiijs.	
Laurentio atte Purye iiijs.	
Johanne atte Crosse iiijs.	
Willelmo le Lacy ... ijs.	
Galfrido Horlefurt... xij.d.	
Waltero Wyththeyth ijs.	
Simone atte Middele xxjd.	
Johanne Rotor ... ijs.	
Willelmo Norye ... ijs.	
Nicholao Wymond ... xvij.d.	

¹ Sharpham, probably.PURYE CUM PAYTONE—*continued*

De Radulpho le Tyli-	
heyghe iiijs.	
Adam de Gredheythe xvij.d.	
Willelmo Toweye... ix.d.	
Willelmo de Grey-	
theye ijs.	
Johanne atte Nor-	
theye iiijs.	
Thoma le Zong ... ijs.	
Johanne atte Watere iiijs.	
Thoma atte Lane... xij.d.	
Willelmo atte More ijs.	
Henrico atte Balle xvij.d.	
Adam Gidelond ... ijs.	
Johanne atte Place xvij.d.	
Thoma Chose ... ijs.	
Johanne Doulond... iiijs.	
Thoma atte Bench ijs.	
Adam Cabbel ... xij.d.	
Jurdano atte Mulle ² ijs.	
Johanne atte Rewe ijs.	
Roberto Drake ... xvij.d.	
Johanne Horn ... ijs.	
Johanne atte Newe iiijs.	
Thoma Thwang ... xij.d.	
Richardo atte Rewe xij.d.	
Richardo Warewik ijs.	
Nicholao de Pynekes-	
more xij.d.	
Stephano de Pynekes-	
more iiijs.	

² Mill.

PURYE CUM PAYTONE—*continued.*

De Johanne atte Hulle ijs.

Johanne de Chiter

Welle ijs.

Johanne de Wornec-noll¹ xvijd.PURYE CUM PAYTONE—*continued.*

De Jacobo de Wodeforde ijs.

Willelmo Oseborne ijs.

Johanne de Forde... ijs.

Summa xx^e villate

predicte... ... Cvijs. ijd.

14/15 Hen. viii.

Assessments of the 2nd payment of the subsidy granted 14-15 Hen. viii. on the inhabitants within the Hundred of Abdich, Gulston, Martok, Kyngsbury, Pytne, and the Borough of Taunton.

DECEMA DE PERY.

Ffrat^rnitas de Wellyngton in terris xx^s. subs. xijd.²

14/15 Hen. viii.

Assessment of a subsidy on the inhabitants of the Hundreds of (among others) Kingesburye.

PERYE.

The ffrat^rnite of Wellyngton yerly in lanndes xx^s. subs. xijd.

37 Hen. viii.

Assessments of the 2nd and last payment of the Subsidy granted 37th Henry viii. on the inhabitants within the hundreds of (among others) Kyngesbury.

Hundredum de Kyngesbury.

DECEMA DE WELLINGTON and PURY.

Johanes Budde Jun^r in bonis xxxl. Subs. xls.Margareta Budde in bonis xxl. " xxvj^s. viijd.

Johanes Catforde in terr. xls. " iiijs.

Thoñs Trowe in bonis xl. " x^s.Robtus Boole in bon. v^l. " iijs. iiijd.¹ Warren knoll.² That is to say, that the Wellington fraternity, or what might be otherwise known as a guild, was assessed at 20s. and had to contribute to the subsidy twelvepence. And so throughout.

Laurencius Baker in bon.	...	...	...	v ^l .	Subs.	iijs.	iijd.
Thoṁs Ryall in bon.	...	...	...	vij ^l .	„	iijs.	vijd.
Willṁs Gifford Jun ^r in bon.	...	...	...	xxv ^l .	„	xxxiijs.	iijd.
Edmundus Bagwell in bon.	...	...	...	ix ^l .	„	vjs.	
Willṁs Waren Jun ^r in bon.	...	...	...	v ^l .	„	iijs.	iijd.
Johañes Waren in bon.	...	...	...	v ^l .	„	iijs.	iijd.
Johañes Mondaie in bon.	...	...	...	vij ^l .	„	vs.	iijd.
Willṁs Waren Sen ^r in bon.	...	...	...	xvij ^l .	„	xvij ^s .	
Alexander Maior in bon.	...	...	...	xij ^l .	„	xij ^s .	
Edmundus Mortymer in bon.	...	...	...	ix ^l .	„		vjd.
Radulphus Colbron in bon.	...	...	...	vj ^l .	„	iijs.	
Willṁs Coldwell in terr.	...	...	...	xls.	„	iijs.	
Johañes Yonge in terr.	...	...	...	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Willṁs Cordyn in bon.	...	...	...	viii ^l .	„	vs.	iijd.
Thoṁs Whithknight in bon.	...	...	...	vij ^l .	„	iv ^s .	vijd.
Johāna Gifford vid. in bon.	...	...	...	x ^l .	„	xs.	
Willṁs Gifford in terr.	...	...	...	xls.	„	iijs.	
Ricūs ffyrselande in bon.	...	...	...	xvij ^l .	„	xvij ^s .	
Xpīa Craṁor vid. in terr.	...	...	...	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Ricūs Gregge in bon.	...	...	...	vij ^l .	„	vs.	iijd.
Johāna Benett vid. in bon.	...	...	...	vij ^l .	„	iijs.	vijd.
Rīcus Webber in terr.	...	...	...	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Thomas Shaldray in bon.	...	...	...	xj ^l .	„	xjs.	
Willṁs ffrye in bon.	...	...	...	vj ^l .	„	iijs.	
Alex Carsewell in bon.	...	...	...	xx ^l .	„	xxvjs.	vijd.
Johēs Lee in bon.	...	...	...	xxij ^l .	„	xxix ^s .	iijd.
Johēs Cape at Stocke in terr.	...	...	...	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Johēs Lamprye in bon.	...	...	...	vj ^l .	„	iijs.	
Nichūs Lamprey in bon.	...	...	...	xx ^l .	„	xxvjs.	vijd.
Johānna Sowthye vid. in terr.	...	...	...	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Laurencius Hussy in bon.	...	...	...	v ^l .	„	iijs.	iijd.
Willms Glasse in bon.	...	...	...	xij ^l .	„	xij ^s .	
Rīcus Hagley in bon.	...	...	...	vij ^l .	„	iijs.	vijd.

Johāna Cape vid. in bon.	vij ^l .	Subs.	vs.	iiij ^d .
Willm̄s Gifford Sen ^r in bon.	xxv ^l .	„	xxxiiij ^s .	iiij ^d .
Willm̄s Stere in terr.	ij ^l .	„	vj ^s .	
Thōms Trickye in terr.	xls.	„	iiij ^s .	
Willm̄s Cade in terr.	ij ^l .	„	vj ^s .	
Johāna Alwey vid. in terr.	xls.	„	iiij ^s .	
Edwardus Jesse in terr.	xls.	„	iiij ^s .	
Willm̄s Rutter in bon....	vij ^l .	„	iiij ^s .	vij ^d .
Jōes Sowthye in bon.	xiiij ^l .	„	xiiij ^s .	
Thomas Chaplen vid. in bon.	x ^l .	„	xs.	
Alicia Chaplen vid. in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^d .
Jōes Cape at Pury in bon.	ix ^l .	„	vj ^s .	
Hugo Cape in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^d .
Jōes Comer in terr.	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Joh̄es ffrye Sen ^r in bon.	vij ^l .	„	iiij ^s .	vij ^d .
Jōes pson le cementarius in bon.... ...	vj ^l .	„	iiij ^s .	
Willm̄s pson in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^d .
Thōms Hawkyns in terr.	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Jōes Potter in terr.	xls.	„	iiij ^s .	
Nīchus Hayward in terr.	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Willm̄s Hartnall in bon.	vij ^l .	„	vs.	iiij ^d .
Jōes Bysshope in bon....	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^a .
Jōes Collys in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	ij ^a .
Joh̄es Cape at Payton in terr.	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Rīcus Callwey in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^a .
Rīcus Hayne in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	vij ^d .
Rīcus Cole in terr.	xx ^s .	„	ij ^s .	
Maria Alway in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^d .
Jōes Budde sen ^r in bon.	x ^l .	„	xs.	
Malterus Awtrye in terr.	xls.	„	iiij ^s .	
Madilta body in bon.	vl.	„	ij ^s .	iiij ^d .
Rogerus Budde in bon.	vij ^l .	„	iiij ^s .	vij ^d .
Anistacia Budde vid. in bon.	vij ^l .	„	vs.	iiij ^d .

Johns Peirs in bon.	...	...	...	...	ix <i>l.</i>	Subs.	vjs.
Agneta Spiring vid. in bon.	...	...	...	...	vij <i>l.</i>	„	vs.
Johns ffyrsye in bon.	...	...	...	...	v <i>l.</i>	„	ij <i>s.</i>
Johns Benett in bon.	...	...	...	...	xx <i>l.</i>	„	xxvjs.
Johns Norman in bon.	...	...	...	...	vij <i>l.</i>	„	vs.
Alicia Cape vid. in bon.	...	...	...	...	ix <i>l.</i>	„	vjs.
Thom <i>s</i> Cade in bon.	...	...	...	...	vij <i>l.</i>	„	ij <i>s.</i>
Thomas Burton in bon.	...	...	...	...	x <i>l.</i>	„	xs.
Johns Cape Jun <i>r</i> in bon.	...	...	...	...	x <i>l.</i>	„	xs.
Ricus Clement in terr.	...	...	...	...	xx <i>s.</i>	„	ij <i>s.</i>
Laurencius ffrye in bon.	...	...	...	...	v <i>l.</i>	„	ij <i>s.</i>
Alicia Plece in bon.	...	...	...	...	v <i>l.</i>	„	ij <i>s.</i>
Sm <i>l.</i>	...	...	...	...	xxx <i>l.</i>	„	xix <i>s.</i>

7 Edw. vi.

Account of John Roynor of the second 15ths and 10ths for the hundreds of (among others) Kingsbury, 7 Edw. vi.

Hundred de Kyngesbury.

[Increment.] ij*s.* iii*j.d.* Wellington: xxvij*s.* viij*d.*; vjs. viij*d.*; xxv*s.* iii*j.d.*¹

4/5 P. and M.

Account of John Cope collector of 15ths and 10ths for the hundreds (among others) Kyngesbury.

[Incr.] ij*s.* iii*j.d.* Welyngton: xxvij*s.* viij*d.*; vjs. viij*d.*

1 Elizabeth.

Account of John Toose, gent., collector of the second 15ths and 10ths for the hundreds of (among others) Kyngesbury.

[Incr.] ij*s.* iii*j.d.* Welyngton: xxvij*s.* viij*d.*; vjs. viij*d.*; xxv*s.* iii*j.d.*

¹ This and following may be understood thus:—In Wellington there was an increase of 3*s.* 4*d.* over 28*s.* 8*d.* (probably the amount of a former collection), a deduction had to be allowed of 6*s.* 8*d.* (perhaps for cost of collection), which left a balance of 25*s.* 4*d.* to be paid over by the collector.

23 Elizabeth.

Four accounts of collectors of the first and second 15ths and 10ths, of two 15ths and 10ths granted 23 Elizabeth within the County of Somerset.

[Incr.] iijs. iiijd. Wellington: xxvijjs. viijd.; vjs. viijd.; xxjs.

29 Elizabeth.

Account of Robert Blake and John Court, collectors of the 15ths and 10ths in the hundreds of (among others) Kingsbury.

[Incr.] iijs. iiijd. Wellington: xxvijjs. viijd.; vjs. viijd.; xxijjs.

43 Elizabeth.

Account of Nicholas Davye, gent., collector of 15ths and 10ths in the hundreds of (among others) Kingsberie.

[Incr.] iijs. iiijd. Wellington: xxvijjs. viijd.; vjs. viijd.; xxijjs.

39 Elizabeth.

Assessment of the first subsidy granted, 39 Elizabeth, on the inhabitants within the hundreds of (among others) Kingsbury.

Wellington:

Johnes Piphame, Knight, Lord Cheiff

Justice of England in terris	...	...	c ^l.	...	xx ^l .
Johēs ffry Jun ^r in bonis	...	...	vj ^l.	...	xvjs.
Wittius Budd sen ^r in bonis	...	...	viij ^l.	...	xvijjs. viijd.
Wittius Stutt in bonis	...	...	ijj ^l.	...	vijjs.
Thomas Southey in bonis	...	...	iiij ^l.	...	x ^s . viijd.
Johnes ffursey in bonis	...	...	v ^l.	...	xijjs. iiijd.
Richus Leye in terris	...	...	xx ^s.	...	iiij ^s .
Johēs Hurtnoll in bonis	...	...	iiij ^l.	...	x ^s . viijd.
Agnes Westcomb vid. in bonis	...	...	ijj ^l.	...	vijjs.
Wittius Carswell in bonis	...	...	vj ^l.	...	xvjs.
Edrūs Jefforde in bonis...	...	...	ijj ^l.	...	vijjs.
Johēs Brocke in bonis	...	...	ijj ^l.	...	vijjs.
Thomas Burton in bonis	...	...	iiij ^l.	...	x ^s . viijd.

Hugo Perry in bonis	...	...	...	...	iiiij ^{l.}	...	x ^{s.}	viiij ^{d.}
Johēs Waterman in terris	...	...	...	...	xls.	...	viijs.	
Johēs ffry sen ^r in terris	...	...	...	...	xls.	...	viijs.	
Elizabethe Parsonne vid. in bonis	...	...	...	...	iiiij ^{l.}	...	x ^{s.}	viijd.
Wittius Cade in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Laurenc Steere in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Wittius Bagwell in terris	...	...	...	...	xls.	...	viijs.	
Johēs Coles in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Wittius ffry sen ^r in terris	...	...	...	...	xls.	...	viijs.	
Anstic Cape vīd in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Wittius ffry juñr in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Edmundus Cappland in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Wittius Budde jun ^r in bonis	...	...	...	...	vj ^{l.}	...	xij ^{s.}	iiijd.
Roþtus Hurtchell in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Thomas Wood jun ^r in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Thomas Maunsell in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Joñes Harris in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Georgius Haukins in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Thomas Wood sen ^r in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Xtofrūs Haddon in bonis	...	...	...	...	iiiij ^{l.}	...	x ^{s.}	viijd.
Ricñus Beaste in terris	...	...	...	...	vijj ^{l.}	...	xxxij ^{s.}	
Jacobus Cade in bonis	...	...	...	...	iiiij ^{l.}	...	x ^{s.}	viijd.
Joñes Thomas in bonis	...	...	...	...	iiiij ^{l.}	...	x ^{s.}	viijd.
Roþtus Sholder in terris	...	...	...	...	xls.	...	viijs.	
Roþtus Parsoun in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Roþtus Coleman in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Nicñus Scadynge in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Margaret Cade vid. in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	
Joñes Mathes in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Laurenc Counsell in terris	...	...	...	...	xxs.	...	iiijs.	
Wittius Geilles in bonis	...	...	...	...	vj ^{l.}	...	xij ^{s.}	iiijd.
Johēs Grinslade in bonis	...	...	...	...	iiiij ^{l.}	...	x ^{s.}	viijd.
Ricñus Wood in bonis	...	...	...	...	ijj ^{l.}	...	viijs.	

Willius Jefford in bonis	...	...	...	iiiij <i>l.</i>	...	x <i>s.</i>	vij <i>d.</i>
Johnes Sealey in terris	...	...	...	xx <i>s.</i>	...	iiijs.	
Willius Warren in terris	...	...	...	xx <i>s.</i>	...	iiijs.	
Robtus Parsoun in terris	...	...	...	xx <i>s.</i>	...	iiijs.	
Thomas Syde in bonis	...	...	...	v <i>l.</i>	...	xij <i>s.</i>	iiijs.
Georgius Prowse in bonis	...	...	...	vj <i>l.</i>	...	xvj <i>s.</i>	
Thomas Carswell in bonis	...	...	...	vij <i>l.</i>	...	xvij <i>s.</i>	vij <i>d.</i>
Nichus Woode in bonis	...	...	...	v <i>l.</i>	...	xij <i>s.</i>	iiid.
Sūma	...	...	...	xlivij <i>l.</i>	...	xvij <i>s.</i>	vij <i>d.</i>

CLOSE ROLLS (REFERENCES TO).

29 Hen. viii.

BETWEEN John Banister, Esq., and Henry Lee, Gentleman, for 100*l.*, the manor of Northolme, in Wellington and Buckland, Somerset.

5/6 P. and M.

A DEED made August 21st, 5 and 6 Philip and Mary, between Edward Gyllarde, Citizen and Goldsmith of London, and Henry Gillard, his brother, and George Cotton, of St. Giles', Cripplegate, London, conveying messuages, lands, and waters in Pynkesmore, within the parish of Wellington, Somerset, late belonging to the Hospital of St. John, Wells.

12 Eliz.

AN indenture dated Dec. 8th, 12 Elizabeth, made between Jerome Brette, of Leedes, Kent, Esq., and Robert House, Citizen and Cloth Worker, of London, witnessing for 970*l.*, a conveyance of the manor of Northolme, *alias* Northorne, in Wellington and Buckland, Somerset, and property in Devon.

19 Eliz.

AN indenture dated 21st March, 19 Elizabeth, made between John Fortescue, Esq., Master of the Wardrobe, and John Walker, Citizen and Scrivener, on the one part, and John Popham, of the

Middle Temple, London, Esq., on the other part, being a sale of a burgage or tenement called Cowlande Meade, with appurtenances, and two acres of land, &c., in Wellington, Somerset.

32 Eliz.

AN indenture made 12th June, 32nd year of Elizabeth, between John Popham, Attorney-General, on the one part, and Thomas Owen, Seriant-at-lawe, and Thomas Sutton, of Ashton, Essex, Esquire, of 2nd part, and ffrancis Popham, son and heir of the said John Popham, and Anne Dudley, daughter and heir of John Dudley, Esq., deceased, of the 3rd part. A marriage settlement as to the said Francis and Anne. Conveyance of the capital and chief mansion-house of the said John Popham in Wellington, Somerset, and other manors and rectories in Somerset.

32 Eliz.

AN indenture dated 21st April, 32 Elizabeth, made by John Herbert, one of the Masters of Requests, D.C.L., and Dean of Wells, Somerset, to Robert Johnson, of London, Gent., James Hubball, Gent., stewards of the possessions of the Deanrie of Wells, and servant John Jones, Gent., to enter into the manors, lands, &c., to said John Herbert belonging, or part, parcel, or number of the possessions or indowments of the Deanrie of Wells in Wells, Combe St. Nycholas, Wellington, Clehanger, &c.

36 Eliz.

AN indenture made February 9th, 36th Elizth., between Robert Howse, of Southbrewham, Somerset, Esq., of the one part, and John Richers, of Milverton, Gent., of the other part. Witnessing for 200*l.* A conveyance is made of 80 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in West Buckland and Wellington, Somerset, sometime in the tenure of Edmund Tymewell, of Bradford, Gent., deceased, and now of Edmund Bullor, of Staple, in the said county, Gent., and certain land, meadows or pasture, called Woodlandes, parcel of the manor of Northolme, in West Buckland and Wellington, and now

or late in the tenure of Thomas Pearse, Edith his wife, and Robert their son. And a meadow called Oldacre, or Oldmeade, of 7 acres, in the same parishes, sometime in the tenure of Wm. Pearse, and now or late in Thomas Skynner.

CUSTOM OF THE MANOR OF WELLINGTON.

(*Exchequer Queen's Remembrancer, Depositions 26 Eliz.*)

26 Eliz.

Interrogatories and Depositions made in the cause of the Queen *versus* William Gyfforde, Walter Andrewes, James Goddarde, Robert Taylor alias Olande, and William Budde.

The Deponents on the part of the Plaintiffs were Elizabeth Perye, of Garberstone; Leonard Quyntrill, of Honyton, Devon; William Baywell, of Wellington, Somerset, husbandman; Edith Selake, wife of Henry Selake, of Overstoye, Somerset; John Harwood, of Wellington, Somerset, husbandman; John Heaborowe, of Bucklande, Somerset; John Quyntrill, of Honyton; John Boddye, of Wellington.

William Baywell, of Wellington, Somerset, husbandman, of the age of ffour score yeres or thereabouts, says :—

Itm to the fourth interr. saith that the Custome of the said Manour ys that the Lordes of the said Manor maye demyse and graunte any customary or Copyholde Tente for one, two, thre, four, or five names in one copy. And that there be dyvers copyes of landes within the saide manour graunted for terme of four or five lyves, and that this deponent hath one for four lyves, and hath and doeth now enioye the same accordinglie.

John Heaborowe, of Bucklande, in the County of Somerset, husbandman, of the age of threescore and nyne yeres or thereabouts, says :—

Itm to the fourth interr. saith that the Custome of the manour of Wellington ys that whereas two have an estate by Copy the same may be surrendred and taken agayne by Copye to the same two psons and three others in one Copye. But saith that if two beinge in one Copye and the first named doth surrender alone and new take the same agayne to himself and to others, leavinge out him that was seconde named in the firste Copye, that the same pson makinge such surrend^r is yeat notwithstandinge to enioye the same duringe his lief.

John Boddye, of Wellington, in the Countie of Soins, husbandman, of the age of threscore yeres or thereaboutes, says:—

Itm̄ to the iijth Interr saith that the custome of the saide manour is that whereas there are two names in one Copy, and the ps ons therein named doe surrend^r the same, they maye newe take yt agayne to themselves and to three others by one Copye. And farther saith that he this deponent knoweth one Copy wherein were conteigned three names (videl^t) one Gifforde, his wief, and his sonne, who did surrender their estate and tooke a newe graunte by Copy unto themselves and unto two other names by one Copy, and the lande afterwarde enjoyed accordinglye.

NOTE.—The above three deponents are the only ones that speak on the Custom of the Manor.

WITNESSES ON THE PART OF THE DEFENDANTS.

Peter Cape, of Wellington; Peter Spyringe the elder, of Wellington; Martin Hext, of Staiton.

Peter Cape, of Wellington, Somerset, husbandman, aged fiftye yeres or thereabouts, says:—

To the second he saith that he knoweth of his owne knoldege and of the knoldege of William Cape, his ffather, and of John Bude and now deceased, beyng an olde man, and his fath^r in Lawe and oth^r olde men, that the Costome of the saied mannor hath bynne demed, used, and Certenly taken and prsented for to be, That if a copie be graunted to ffive names upon surrender made by two, and that then after the takinge of the sayed Copie three of the saied five beyng deade, and the psone ffirst named in the saied Copie Contayninge five names after the death of the sayed three ps ons doth alone surrender and take a newe Copie againe to himselfe and others, levinge out of the last Copie the ps ons named wth him in the saied Copie Conteyninge five names or not plasinge the sa^{ed} pson nexte after him in the sayed last Copie that the saied laste recited new Copie is voyde, and in noe sorte is warranted by the costome of the saied mannor, And that by the Costome of the saied mannor a man maye haue five names upon one Copie.

To the third he saith that he knoweth of his owne knoldege of some that haue taken a new Copie of some of the Customarie Lands of the said manno^r wthout the privitie or surrender of the rest named in the saied Copies wth them, and afterward the saied newe Copies were avoyded for

the same cause by the Costome of the saied manno^r. And that he knoweth of two that haue binne so avoyded and disallowed by the saied Costome, thone of them named John Hewes and thoth^r Raffe Chipley, and that he knoweth the same to be trew, for that the same Came in question, And the Lorde soulde the same ffrom them to oth^r ps ons, and nethr of them enioyed the same but what the names of the ps ons named in the saied Copies were he remembreth not oth^r than the ps ons before named.

To the iiijth he saieth that Laurence Hussey deceased, and Edeth his firste wiffe, did holde by Copie of Courte Rolle the tente now in the tenure of Peter Spiringe for the terme of theire liues accordinge to the Costome of the saied manno^r.

Peter Spyringhe the elder, of Wellington, Somerset, husbandman, aged 61 years or thereabouts, says :—

To the second he saieth that he knoweth of his owne knoledge, and by the reporte of his ffath^r beinge an olde man, and of divers othr olde men, as namelie Peter Ley, beinge also an olde man, and tenaunts of the saied manno^r, that if five names be graunted in one Copie of anie Copie-holde tente of the saied manno^r uppon surrender made by towe names onely conteyned in a found Copie, And three of the same five ps ons do happen to dye, and then the stede holder, or psone ffirste named in the saied Copie conteyninge five names, doth after the death of the saide three names Conteyned in the saied Copie surrendred alone, and doth take againe by a new Copie to himselfe and others, leveinge out of the saied laste Copie the psone named wthin him in the saied Copie for five names or not plasinge him Immediateli after him in the saied laste Copie, the saied new Copie so laste taken is voyde and in noe sorte warranted by the Costome of the saied manno^r, and that he, this examinant, of his owne knoledge hath knowen three or ffouer pd seulments to be made by thomage of the saied manno^r in forme aforesaid, And saieth that by the Costome of the saied Manno^r a tenaunt maie have ffive names on one Copie in forme aforesaid.

To the third he cannot depose.

To the iiijth he saieth that he knoweth that Lawrence Hussey, and Edeth his wife, had a Copie of the tente mencioned in the Interr to be in the tenure of Peter Spiringe for terme of three liues, and that they did enjoie the same accordinge to the saied Copie.

SURVEY OF THE MANOR, 1649.¹

Manerium et Rectoria de Wellington et West Buckland.

A survey of the mannor and rectory of Wellington and West Buckland, with the rights, members, and appurteñces thereof lyeinge and beinge in the County of Somersett, late parcell of the Possessions or late belonginge to the late Deane of the Cathedrall Church of Wells, within the said Countye of Somersett, made and taken by us whose names are hereunto subscribed in the moneth of September, 1649, by virtue of a Commission to us graunted, grounded upon an act of the Commons of England assembled in Parliament for the Abolishinge of Deanes, Deanes and Chapters, Cannons, Prebends, and other offices and titles of and belonginge to any cathedrall or collegiate church or chappell within England and Wales under the handes and seales of five or more of the Trustees in the said act named and appointed.

All that Barne commonly called the Parsonage Barne of seaven bayes of building, covered with slate, with a curtilage thereunto adjoyneinge, lyeinge and beinge in the Parrish of Wellington, in the County of Somersett, and all the Tythes and portions of Tythes of Corne and Hay, together with all other Tythes and Tenthes whatsoever, with theire appurteñces groweinge and arisinge within the said Parrish of Wellington and West Buckland due and properly belonginge to the Parsonage and Rectory thereof, wee value upon improvement to be worth per annum— £220 os. od.

Memorandum.—The Premisses last recited are in the present possession of Alexander Popham, Esq., who claymeth to hold the same by virtuc of a lease from the late Deane of Wells, bearinge date before the yeare 1641.

Memorandum.—Sir Francis Popham, Knt., by Indenture of Lease bearinge date the 11th Day of November, in the 15th of the late King Charles, granted by the Deane and Chapter of Wells, holds all the last mentioned premisses, viz.—all that Barne called the Parsonage of Wellington with the appurteñces as is before mentioned, for and durante the naturall Lyves of Alexander Popham and Edward Popham, Esq., and Francis Lutterell, Gentl^l, and the longest liver of them, under the reserved yearlye rent of Forty pounds payable att the foure usuall Feasts in the yeare, but is worth upon improvement over and above the said rent, as by the Particulars certifedy appeareth— £180 os. od.

¹ Add. MS., B. M. 6491.

The Lyves are all in beinge, as appeareth by the oath of Nathaniell Smyth, taken before me 20^o Octob^r 1649. WILL. WEBB.

Returned (amongst other thinges) into the Regist. office the 12th of October, 1649. By

FR. FOYE,
ALEX. LAWSON, } Surveyors.
NICH. COMBE,

MISCELLANEOUS.

Inspximus and confirmation by Edward the Dean and the Chapter of a Charter of Bp. William granting to Stephen Russel and Joanna his wife a ferdal of land in Bocland, in Welyington Manor, pro servitio suo, formerly held by W. Russel, at a rent of 6s. 8d. a year, besides Peter's penny, the Hundred penny, &c., and the duty of fencing Westbury Park. Saving also a winter and summer ploughing to be done by them.¹

Test. John Forti, chancellor of Wells; Thomas Franceis, seneschal of the Bishop; Henry de Wolaynton, Master Will. de Bosynton, Ric. de Bamfeld, Rad. de Lullington, Thom. de Wolynton, John de Benecumb, John de Jordanstane, &c.

Given in the Chapter, Nov. 13, A.D. 1263.

Inspximus by the D. & C. and confirmation of a grant by Bp. Roger to Will. de Wrangheye of certain lands, &c., at Wolynton at a rent of 20 shillings a year in lieu of all services except the fencing (claustura) of our Park at Westbury which he has been wont to do. He may enclose the lands. For this grant he pays 10 marcs in gersumam.

Test. Nich. Goffin, Archdn. of Bath; Robt. de Tefford and Ric. de Haldesworth, dominis; Gerbert de Welynton and Ranulf de Fleury, militibus; Steph. de Welynton, Will. de Laford, Will. Thursloo, and John Bennecomb, &c. Given at Woky, per manum Ricard de Haldesworth, 14^o Kal. Feb. Pontific anno 3^o. Confirmed 13^o Kal. March, A.D. 1246.²

Particulars for Grants.

7 Edw. vi. For William Gifford Mercer, of Wellington Farms, in Wellington, Soms., lately for the support of church services.

3 Edw. vi. John Nethermyll and John Mylward. Request to purchase Rents in Wellington late belonging to the Church Service in West Buckland.

¹ *Hist. MSS. Wells*, p. 0.

² *Ibid.* p. 39.

18 *Eliz.* John Fortescue. Rents in Wellington, parcel of the presbiteries lands in Ilmystre.

6 *Eliz.* Lawrence Palmer. Tenth in Wellington, late of the Monastery of Bath.

16 *Eliz.* Earl of Leicester. Farm parcel of the Manor of Wellington late of John, Duke of Northumberland.

*Exchequer Depositions by Commission.*¹

(References to Plaintiffs, Defendants, and Subject-matter.)

26 *Eliz.* (1584). Easter Term, 8 April, at Taunton. The Queen and Robert Seale and others, Thomas Younge, Heny. T. Merye, Thos. Mathewe, Thomas Browne, *Plaintiffs*. William Gyfforde, Walter Andrewes, Jas. Goddarde, Robert Taylor, alias Oland, William Budde, *Defendants*. *Subject-matter*, Wellington Manor Customs. Entry of Robert Speringe, father of Peter and Lawr. Hussey, and Edith his wife, into copyhold lands in same.

30 *Eliz.* (1587). Hilary Term, 18 December, at Wellington. *Plaintiffs*, Thomas Carpenter, Ann Carpenter (son and daughter of Robert Carpenter). *Defendant*, Robert Oland. *Subject-matter*, Lease of the Manor of Wellington obtained by defendant and others, patentees, and their composition and agreement with tenants of said manor, and grant of lease by said patentees to John Berry. Value of the rectories of Wellington and Buckland. A grant of the manor by Queen Mary to Christopher Baynham: the names of John Wyke, John Parson, Richd. Hayne, Wm. Gifford, John Clements, Walter Andrewes, James Goddard, Wm. Budd, and Ann Berry, wife of John Berry, who afterwards married Martin Hext, are mentioned.

6 *James i.* (1607-8). Easter Term, 23 March, at Taunton. *Plaintiff*, John Rosewell. *Defendants*, Humfrey Windham, Thomas Frauncis, Geo. Prowse, Robt. Pirrie, Wm. Budd, Alexr. Walker, Chas. Holway, Symon Saunders, Peter Rowsewell and Peter Hite. *Subject-matter*, Meadow and pasture pounds, called Langhams, in the parish of West Buckland, and parcels of the manor of Wellington survey.

9 *Anne* (1710). Hilary Term, 15 January, at Wellington. *Plaintiff*, Robert Parsons. *Defendants*, Richard Berry, Henry Sellick, Christopher Baker, Thomas Bromfield, Leomidon Lippincott. *Subject-matter*, Last wills

¹ *Dep.-Keeper's Reports.*

and testaments, and the disposition of the real and personal estates of John Parsons (plaintiff's late uncle) and Henry Parsons (plaintiff's late father), the estate of the said Henry including messuages in Sampford, Arundell, and Wellington.

*Patent Rolls.*¹

6 Edward I. (1278), Welyton. Appointment of Solomon de Rochester and Master Thomas de Sodington to take the assize of novel disseisin arraigned by Alice, late wife of Geoffrey Steinyng, against Elinor de Columbers, touching a tenement in Welyton.

Appointment of Solomon de Rochester and Master Thomas de Sodington to take the jury arraigned by Lawrence, son of William Estmund, against Isabel, wife of David de Welyton, touching a tenement in Welyton.

*Proceedings in Chancery, temp. Eliz.*²

Plaintiff, Thomas Wykes. *Defendants*, John Popham, Esq., Serjeant-at-Law, and Arthur Otley. *Object of the Suit*, Claim by descent of divers messuages and lands in Wellington, Pyttemister, Langford, and Milverton, formerly the estate of John Wykes, from whom the plaintiff deduces his title through many descents.

Plaintiff,³ John Howarde and Christian his wife, late the wife of Clement Skadden. *Defendants*, Katharine Skadden, Thos. Reynolds, and Nicholas Skadden. *Object*, Claim under leases of a tenement, parcel of the manor of Wellington, co. Somerset, held under a lease from William Gifford and others, grand lessees of said manor; also the rectory and parsonage of Fairwail, co. Devon, held under a lease from Nicholas Skadden, clerk, patron of the said rectory.

Plaintiff,⁴ Peter Cape. *Defendant*, William Cooke. *Object*, Claim by lease for lives of land held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in right of his Bishoprick, being part of the manor of Wellington.

Domestic State Papers.

1575, July 4, Wellington. John Popham to Edward Dyer. Returns his papers relative to the privileges of the tanners with all exceptional points provided for. Decay of the leather trade mentioned.

¹ *Dep.-Keeper's Report*, 47, p. 383.

³ *Ibid.* Vol. II.

² *Ibid.* Vol. III., 1832.

⁴ *Ibid.* Vol. I.

1588, *July 22*, *Wellington*. John Popham, Attorney-General, to Walsyngham. Discovery of the Spanish Fleet to the number of eight score and two sails, which had been encountered by the Lord Admiral from nine in the morning till three in the afternoon, &c.

1610, *May 31*. Lease to Lionel Cranfield of divers messuages, parcel of the manor of Wellington, co. Somerset, value 49*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* per annum, part of the contract with John Eldred and others.

1614, *August 16*. Grant to Sir John Mallet, Thomas Henton, and Dan. White, of purchase of lands, &c., parcel of the manor of Wellington, Somerset.

Same date. Grant to Jas. Prowse, Rich. Perry, and John Gibbons, of purchase of land in the manor of Wellington, co. Somerset.

1624, *March 6*. Declaration of the King's pleasure to grant to Thomas Gibbs and Lawrence Whittaker fee farm rents of the manor of Middlesoy and of lands in the manor of Wellington, co. Somerset, value 68*l.* 10*s.* 0*1*₂*d.*, annexed to the Crown.

A schedule of the stint rents due to the Lord of the Manner off Wellington and West Buckland, in the county of Somst, and payable yearly at Michaellmas only by severall p'sons ffollowinge, vidz. (*circa 1680*) :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		
Mr. Broadripp	...	00	03	04	James Cade	...	00	00	04
Widdow Poole	...	00	01	10	Mr. Edward Thurston	00	00	08	
William Cade	...	00	03	04	Laurence Bartlett	...	00	00	03
William Ley	...	00	01	08	Alexander Popham,				
James Cade	...	00	01	08	Esq.	...	00	07	00
Thomas Smocke	...	00	10	10	Thomas Perry	...	00	00	10
Roger Thomas	...	00	01	04	James Chappell and	}	00	01	08
Nicholas Chaire	...	00	00	06	John Chappell				
James Ley	...	00	01	08	Richard Barker	...	00	00	06
Edward Clarke, Gent.,					John ffoxwell	...	00	00	06
for Mr. Cavenger	00	01	08		Mary Perrey widdow	00	00	03	

FAMILY AND PERSONAL HISTORY.

The Popham family—Sir John Popham—Stories of his Youth—His promotions—His Colonial Scheme—Friendship with Peter Blundell—The Pophams and the Warres intermarrying—Sanford family—Curious story of an Illuminated MS.—The Early Owners of Chipley—Betty Clarke—A Locke-Clarke hitherto unpublished letter—Chipley House—Were Family—Fox Family—Dr. Wilson Fox—Families of Wolcott, Prowse, Bovet, Pulman and Prockter-Thomas, Lackington, Salkeld, Baynes, Bishops Crosthwaite and Smith—Extracts from Wills—Miscellaneous.

POPHAM Family and Sir John Popham.—The family of Popham was formerly seated at a place of the same name in Hampshire. They were, it is said, in favour of the Empress Maud, and held honourable stations in the reign of Henry III. In the reign of Henry VI. property was inherited in Somerset, and the family removed to that county.¹

Gilbert Popham de Popham, living temp. King John, m. Joan, dau. of Robert Clark, feofee in trust for the Manor of Popham, and d. 35 Henry III., leaving a son and heir,

Robert Popham de Popham, who left issue two sons: (1) John, whose great-great-great-grandson, Stephen Popham de Popham, d. without male issue, leaving four daughters: Elizabeth, m. John Wadham; Margery, m. Thomas Hampden of Bucks; Eleanor, m. John Barintone; and Alice, m. John Foster. (2) Hugh, from whom the Wellington branch is descended.

¹ Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1886, vol. ii. p. 1483.

Sir Hugh de la Popham, K^t, one of King Edward the First's Commissioners for fixing the boundaries of Royal Forests in Somerset, m. Joan, dau. of Sir Stephen Kentisbury, K^t of Huntworth, Somerset, and widow of Sir John Trivet, and had a son, Sir John Popham, K^t, who lived temp. Edward I. and Edward II., and m. Alexandria, dau. of John Horsey of Horsey, and had a son and heir,

Sir Hugh Popham, K^t, m. Hawise, dau. of Robert Brent, and had an eldest son,

Thomas Popham, of Huntworth, m. Cecilia, dau. of John Hugon, and d. 6 Henry V., leaving a son and heir,

William Popham, of Huntworth, m. Agnes, dau. and heiress of William Edmondes, and d. 4 Edward IV., leaving an eldest son,

John Popham, m. Isabella, dau. and heir of Thomas Knoyle or Knowles, and had an eldest son,

Alexander Popham, of Huntworth. He m. Jane, dau. of Sir Edward Stradling, K^t, and had two sons :

Edward, of Huntworth, living 1573, m. Jane, dau. of Richard Norton, of Abbotts Lee, and had a son and successor.

Alexander Popham, of Huntworth, buried in the Temple, London, who m. Dulcibella, dau. of John Barley, and had three sons: the third son, Thomas Popham of Huntworth, succeeded his brother Edward, 1623. He m. (1) Grace, dau. of William Dales, by whom he had one dau. Sarah. He m. (2) Mary, dau. of Henry Darby of Beaminster, and had a son and successor,

Thomas Popham, of Huntworth, who m. Eleanor Wansford, and had two sons. Alexander, his heir, and Thomas, who m. and had issue. The elder son,

Alexander Popham m. thrice. By his first wife, Elizabeth Linney, he had a son, Francis, of Wellington, and a daughter, Elizabeth, m. Rev. John Hawes, and by the third, Mary, daughter of Thomas Gatchell (d. 1717), two sons, Thomas and Alexander, the elder of whom, Thomas Popham, of West Bagborough, m. Sarah Andrewes, and was father of Alexander Popham of Bagborough, who m. Charlotte Louisa, dau. and co-heir of Samuel Eyre, and left at his decease, 6 Oct. 1792, a son, Francis, and two daughters, Louisa Charlotte, m. Rev. Francis Warre, D.C.L., and Letitia Harriet, who d. unm. 1856. His son Francis Popham, of Bagborough, b. March 1780, m. 1809 Susan, dau. of N. Fenwick, and left an only child and heir,

Susan, m. 17 July, 1851, M. G. Fenwick-Bissett.

SIR JOHN POPHAM, K^{nt}, second son of Alexander Popham, of Huntworth, by Jane Stradling his wife, was constituted Lord Chief Justice of England, and, having accumulated an ample fortune, purchased from the family of Darell the estate of Littlecote. Sir John Popham m. Amy, dau. of Robert Games, of Castleton, co. Glamorgan, and had issue one son and six daughters. He d. 1607, and was succeeded by Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecote and Wellington.¹

John Popham was born at Huntworth in this county about the year 1531. He was the second son of Alexander Popham, and as a younger son he had but a small patrimony to fall back upon. Though his tastes in early life were, as we shall see, averse from any hard study, he was obliged to adopt some profession to support himself in ease and comfort.

Most biographers have laid to Popham's charge the crimes of highway robbery and a general dissoluteness of character which ill fitted his profession. These charges could no doubt be traced back to the ingenious gossip of Aubrey, the Wiltshire antiquary,² who has said of Popham that he 'for severall yeares addicted himselfe but little to the studie of the lawes, but profligate company, and was wont to take a purse with them. His wife considered her and his condition, and at last prevailed with him to lead another life, and to stick to the studie of the lawe, which, upon her importunity, he did, being then about thirtie years old. He spake to his wife to provide a very good entertainment for his comrades to take his leave of them; and after that day fell extremely hard to his studie, and profited exceedingly. He was a strong, stout man, and could endure to sit at it day and night.'

The stories of Popham's riotous youth are exaggerated no doubt, but an eminent biographer³ has repeated them and, in error,

¹ For the Popham pedigree see Collinson's *Somerset*, i. 264; ii. 483; iii. 71; Berry's *Hampshire Genealogies*, 181, 197. In Chilton Foliot Church, Wilts, there are several tablets to the Pophams and Leybornes, and in the Registers of the same place a large number of entries relating to the Pophams may be found.—Nichol's *Topographer*, 1858, vol. iii. p. 578.

² Aubrey, *Lives*, 1813, p. 493.

³ Lord Campbell, *Chief Justices*.

further states that Popham was born at Wellington, which is certainly incorrect. Another writer¹ has tried to make Popham stand for Shakespeare's 'Madcap Harry.'²

Popham was at Balliol College, and afterwards pursued the study of the law in the Middle Temple. It is then that these stories of his riotous youth are supposed to have originated, but in reading of which it is necessary to bear in mind that highway robbery in the sixteenth century, when carried on by 'gentlemen of the road,' was a very different offence in enormity to what it was considered a hundred or less years ago.

It is said that when a child Popham was stolen by a band of gipsies and remaining with them some months, these captors disfigured and branded him for life.³ Further particulars of his youthful escapades point to the Kent road as being the scene of his exploits. Along this road would come travellers, numerous and wealthy, from the Continent, journeying to London, and Popham sallying forth from a Southward Inn would lie in ambush on Shooter's Hill.⁴ Fuller, apparently anxious to exonerate a favourite, says of his earlier years that he was then 'as stout and skilful a man at sword and buckler as any in that age, and wild enough in his recreations.'⁵

The first honour which John Popham received was his election as Member of Parliament for Bristol, and during the time that he represented that city he did good work. He was made Serjeant Popham, January 28, 1578, and later Solicitor-General. While holding this last-named office he was elected Speaker of the House of Commons, in January 1581.⁶ The duties of the Speaker in the Elizabethan Parliaments would seem to have been lighter by far than that devolving upon the same high office in the present reign. When the Virgin Queen addressed Popham, 'Well, Mr. Speaker, what

¹ Walford, *Antiquarian*, Jan. 1887.

² Henry v., printed 1600.

³ Lord Campbell, *Chief Justices*.

⁴ In Popham's youth a law was enacted by which a peer on first conviction for robbery was entitled to 'benefit of clergy.'

⁵ Fuller, *Worthies*.

⁶ It is a little curious that there should have been a Sir John Popham Speaker in 1449.

hath passed in the Lower House ? ' he answered, ' If it please your Majesty, seven weeks.'

In June 1581 Popham became Attorney-General, and held the office for eleven years. He was elevated to the post of Lord Chief Justice of King's Bench, June 2, 1592, and then was knighted. He presided over that court for the remainder of his life.

The severity with which Popham executed justice caused him to be called ' the hanging judge,' and he was often reproached for what was by many considered his gross injustice at the trials of criminals. Popham was present in the court at Fotheringay during the trial of Mary Queen of Scots ; and it was a high day in his career when, in 1600, he was called upon to go in company with others to summon the rebellious Essex to surrender.

At the accession of a new sovereign one of Popham's first duties was to preside over the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh, and later he gave judgment in the trials of the Guy Faux conspirators, and the Jesuit Garnet.

It is difficult to ascertain what were the reasons which led to Popham taking up his residence at Wellington, and there building a mansion. All we know is that he graced this town with his presence, and in his character as a country gentleman he is, perhaps, the most pleasing. This town has, at any rate, the greatest reason to claim him. An old valued authority says :¹ ' This judge built in this place (Wellington) a large, strong, and beautiful house. . . . He died in the year 1607, and was buried in the church of this town, which he had graced with his residence, so at his death he proved a great benefactor to it.'

Of Popham's private life here in the town we have very little knowledge. The house in which he lived stood where the present residence known as Old Court now stands, and some very trifling remains of the original residence may be noticed in a Tudor archway. Furthermore, the walk known as the ' Beech Nuts ' might well

¹ Cox, *Magna Britannia*.

have once formed the avenue or drive leading to and from the mansion. It is difficult to account for the Beech Nut Walk other than as originally being planted to form a shady and picturesque carriage-drive.

Some curious stories are told of Popham's house, and not the least remarkable is that Lady Jane Grey once resided there.¹ It would, however, be difficult to find good authority for this statement.

Another story, much more incredible, is told by a veracious writer as follows :² 'At the hall in Wellington, in the countie of Somerset, the ancient seat of the Pophams, and which was this Sir John's, Lord Chief Justice (but query if he did not buy it), did hang iron shakells, of which the tradition of the countrey is, that long agoe one of the Pophams (Lord of this place) was taken and kept a slave by the Turks for a good while, and that by his Ladie's great pietie and continuall prayers he was brought to this place by an invisible power, with these shackells on his legges, w^{ch} were here hung up as a memorall, and continued till the house (being a garrison) was burnt. All the countrey people steadfastly believe the trueth hereof.'³

At Kimbolton, the seat of the ducal house of Manchester, the ghost of the Chief Justice is believed to haunt the Castle and Park. Sir John is supposed to lie under the great elms in wait for rogues and poachers.⁴ It would be interesting to know by what means this tradition of Popham is found so far removed from the centres in which he principally moved. Mr. Hepworth Dixon, who was possessed of much curious knowledge, has, in characteristic style, with a graphic description of Popham, which, though rather over-drawn, is of interest and value where facts are at hand. A portrait

¹ *Somerset Arch. Soc. Proceedings*, 1861-2, part i., p. 36.

² *Aubrey, Lives*, 1813, p. 495.

³ The local stories of Popham's ghost, &c., have been told under the heading of Folk Lore.

⁴ *Athenæum*, Jan. 5, 1861, p. 9.

of Popham hangs in the great hall at Kimbolton, and upon this Mr. Dixon has observed¹—

‘This picture of the eminent and awful judge (a very rare portrait, I imagine) is a full-face—the countenance flat and white, the flesh worn and rocky, the brow high but cruel, the jaw vast, and the cheek of enormous width from ear to nostril. There is a film of thin white whisker and moustache, cropped close to the flesh, but not shaven away. One hand grips a stick, the other a glove, but with a snap and hold as if the stick and glove were two cutpurses’ throats. The judge has a bad digestion, one infers; perhaps the Rhenish he has drunk for dinner at ten o’clock, before walking down to Westminster, lies on his stomach sour. A dark, granitic man, safer to meet in the spirit on Kimbolton Park wall than face with a charge against you in a criminal court.² What does he here, and what his ghost in the park? Why should the judge who boasted, and truly, too, that he had cleansed England of all her rogues, so that a child might go from Devon to Durham with heaps of gold and not be robbed, prowl round the parks and demesnes of the old prison-palace of Queen Katharine, scaring poachers from their gins? Surely a sorry sort of game for such a dismal and portentous magistrate to hunt.

‘Of the line of portraits at Kimbolton none attracts my eye so often, none holds my memory so long, as the figure of this grim old knight. It is not that he was a Lord Chief Justice—that he was a good Protestant—that he was one of the founders of America, peopling it with rogues and beggars, and broken troopers, and reprieved highwaymen and uncompromising Brownists. To see the face of Popham is to dive, in imagination, deep into that Littlecote mystery which Aubrey found in his day current among the Wiltshire peasants, which Sir Walter Scott made universal, which Sir Bernard Burke has repeated in his *Romance of the Aristocracy*, and Lord Macaulay and Lord Campbell have reproduced and revived in their historical works.’

In 1606 Popham was associated with Sir Fernando Gorges in founding a colony in North America. In brief, the reasons

¹ *Athenæum*, Jan. 12, 1861, p. 50.

² ‘As evidence to Popham’s extreme severity, see Macvey Napier’s article on Raleigh in *Edinburgh Review*. Dr. Donne expressed a hope ‘that when he proved faithless to his friends he might have a worse fate than a sentence from Popham.’

assigned by the founders for this venture were that in England the State was burdened by disbanded soldiers, beggars, and highwaymen, and that some means must be found by which the superfluous numbers might be got rid of.¹

It may certainly be questioned whether there is any economy or justice in peopling a colony with the scum and refuse of more flourishing parts, and on this ground Popham has been as severely censured as ever he himself pronounced sentence. The scheme has been pointed to as one of avarice and greed, and that instead of the permanent establishment of a colony none else than mercenary ends were in view.²

It has been observed of this scheme that Popham not only punished malefactors, but provided for them, 'and first set up the discovery of *New England* to maintain and employ those that could not live honestly in the *Old*. There are others among his contemporaries who speak favourably of his character, and the infamy which is supposed to have been attached to the Darell incident has been cleared away with some success.'³

A recent writer,⁴ who has gone to original sources for his information, does not hesitate to point out the blemishes in Popham's character. In his earlier years, as counsel for the Darells, many of his transactions were of a decidedly shady character. Indeed, of some of these the most charitable view in which they can be regarded is, that at a time when the standard of morality could not have been very high Popham did nothing to raise it. But probably the pleasantest side of the great lawyer's life must have been seen in his position as a country gentleman. Here his birth and early experiences qualified him to figure to admiration.

A local incident that should not be omitted is the great and

¹ Thornton, *Colonial Schemes of Popham and Gorges*.

² Bancroft, *United States*, vol. i., chap. iv. Lloyd, *State Worthies*.

³ Mr. W. Long in *Wilts Arch. Magazine*. ⁴ Hall, *Society in the Elizabethan Age*.

close friendship which existed between Popham and Peter Blundell, the philanthropist and founder of the school at Tiverton known by his name. Two extracts from Blundell's will are sufficient to show the close friendship which existed between these neighbours:—

‘I doe also most humbly desier and praiē the Directions of my deare frende Sir John Popham, Kt. Lord Chief Justice of Englande, whome it hath already pleased to promise me his lawful help and furtherance for the better execution of this my last will. Item I give unto the same Lord Chief Justice in token of my dutifull love and good will to his Lordship one hundred powndes.

‘Any my will and meaning is that in and aboute theis severall buildings (school) plott, frome and all the partes thereof the advise and directions of my righte deare and honorable friende Sir John Popham, Knighte Lord Chief Justice of Englande, shall be taken and followed.’¹

It is favourable to Popham's character that this attachment of Blundell was so strong. It can hardly be believed that the wealthy and liberal Tivertonian would have regarded so highly any one whose acts had proved him unworthy.

Such, at any rate, was the man who was the principal figure not only in Wellington history during the Elizabethan period, but a very prominent mover in all national concerns. Between Wellington, Littlecote, and London, Popham must have frequently been moving; his progresses attended with the same lavish display which marked all his domestic arrangements.

Popham died June 10, 1607, possessed of a greater fortune than had ever been amassed by any lawyer before him. In his last testament he did not forget his associations with Wellington, but sufficiently endowed a most admirable charity.

The following facts will show the connexion between the Warres of Hesbercombe and the Pophams. This interesting memorandum is taken from MSS. in the Taunton Museum.²

¹ *Donations of Peter Blundell*, 1792, p. 25.

² *Sirel MSS.*

Richard Warre, the grandfather of the Warres named below, married Katharine, daughter of Sir Roger Blewit, of Holcombe Rogus. He died 44 Elizabeth, 1602. Roger Warre, his son, married Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Popham, and died 14 James I., 1616.¹

A transcript from a memorandum of the time of the birth of the twelve² sons of Roger Warre, Esq., of Hestercombe, in co. Somerset, and his wife Eleanor, the daughter of the Lord Chief Justice Popham, who has also two daughters, were all born at Wellington, (in) the house of the said Lord Chief Justice, in foresaid county.

This memorandum was written on the spare leaves of a quarto book entitled the *Accidens of Armory* (once in the possession of Rev. Francis Warre, of Cheddon Fitzpaine), very probably by Amis Warre, the twelfth son of the forementioned Roger Warre.

Richard la Warre, filius Rogeri, natus apud Wellington in die veneris circa horam 3 a.m. in aurora ejusdem diei 28 die Maii, an. Elizabeth Reginæ 16°, 1574, et baptizatus 29° ejusdem mensis. Susceptores, Richard la Warre et Edwardus Popham. Susceptrix, Frances Stawell.

Johannes, filius secundus Rogeri la Warre, natus apud Wellington 28° die Sept., an. Eliz. 17, 1575, et baptizatus 1° die Octob. Susceptores, Johannis Popham et Ricardus Malet de St. Audries. Susceptrix, Jane, uxor Ed. Popham.

Thomas, filius 3^{us} Rogeri la Warre, natus apud Wellington 28° Nov. in die Mercury, an. Eliz. 19, 1575, et baptizatus 29° die ejusdem mensis. Susceptores, Thomas Horner et Joh: Hipsley. Susceptrix, Anne, uxor John Popham.

Anne, the daughter of Roger Warre, born at Perrot in Dorset, 4° Decemb., and christened the 5th day of the same month, 1578, 21 Eliz. Godfather, Thomas Hanam. Godmothers, Margaret, the wife of John Stroud, of Parnham, and Penelope, the wife of the said Tho. Haname.

Francis, 4th son of Roger la Warre, born at Wellington on Sunday, the 24th of Jany, 1579, 22 Eliz: Christened 27th. Godfathers, Francis Popham, and John la Warre of Chipley. Godmother, Anne, wife of Tho. Horner.

¹ *Som. Arch. Society Proceedings*, 1872, part ii., p. 161.

² It will be noticed that the eleventh son is for some reason omitted from the transcript.

George, 5th son, born at Wellington on Monday the — of March, 24 Eliz: Christened the Friday following. Godfathers, Sir George Rogers and Richard Champernoon. Godmother, Lady Joane Portman.

Alexander, the 6th son of Roger la Warre and Elinor his wife, born at Wellington on the Feast of Simon and Jude.¹ Godfathers, Bartholomy Wychiel and Roger Ashford. Godmother, Katherine Walrond. A.D. 1583.

Edward, 7th son of Roger la Warre and of Elynor, born at Wellington 21 Jany, 1584, christened the 26th day. Godfathers, Sr John Stawell, K^t, and John Coles. Godmother, Lady Jane Rogers.

Roger, 8th son of Roger la Warre and Elynor, born at Wellington on Friday, ye third day of June, A.D. 1586. Godfathers, Richard Bluet and Alexander Popham. Godmother, Katherine, the wife of Edw^d Rogers.

Robert, the 9th son of Roger la Warre and Elynor, born at Wellington on Friday, ye 1st of Dec. an^o 1587. Godfathers, John Francis and W^m Walrond, Esq. Godmother, Eliz. Ashford.

William, 10th son, born at Wellington, an. Eliz. 31, 1589. Godfathers, Edw^d Rogers and Roger Ashford (deputy for W^m Rogers).

John, filius Thos. Hanam, natus apud Wellington, 21 die Martis, an^o 16 Eliz: 1574; baptizatus 3^o die ejusdem mensis. Susceptores, Richard la Warre and Edward Popham. Susceptrix, Anne, uxor J. Popham.

John, filius Tho. Horner, natus apud Wellington, 24^o die Nov. an^o 19 Eliz. 1576; baptizatus 25^o ejusdem mensis. Susceptores, Jokes Horner pro Johem Hipsley deputatum, and Jokes Popham pro Alexander Popham deputatum. Susceptrix, Penelope, uxor Tho: Hanam.

Thomas Hanam, born at Pesot, county Devon, 8 Apr. 1577. Godfathers, Thomas Mullens and John Skerne. Godmother, Katherine, wife of Humphrey Walrond.

Hercules Horner, born at Closford, 1st of June, 1578.

Anne Horner, born at Wellington 24 December, 1579. Godfather, Thos. Hanam. Godmothers, Elynor la Warre, Agnes Bluet of Cotehaye.

Anne Hanam, born at Wellington, 17 Jan. 1579. Godfather, Roger la Warre. Godmothers, Jane Horner, Mary Bluet.

Jane, daughter of Edw^d Rogers and Katherine his wife, born 17 Dec. 1588. Godfather, John Sydenham of Lye, Esq. Godmothers, Lady Jane Rogers by Elynor Warre, deputy, and Anne Popham.

¹ October 28.

Ames, the 12th son of Roger la Warre and Elynor, born at Wellington y^e 9th of December.¹ Christened the 15th of the s^d month. Godfathers, Henry (or Hugh) Portman and Henry Walrond, Esq. Godmother, Lady Margaret Pawlet of Sanford Peverel.

Elynor, 2nd daughter of Roger Warre, Esq., born at Wellington 6th Aug. 1597. Godfather, Richard Pollard of Kilve, Esq. Godmothers, Katherine Rogers of Cannington, Mary Malet of Enmore.

Sanford of Nynehead.—Nynehead is a parish which should ere this have found a historian. The church and the manor-houses are so rich in historical traces that no idea can be entertained of dealing with the place here. Nynehead should be treated of separately and distinctly. It would be a serious omission, however, to say nothing of the family resident there which has been associated with the political history of Wellington for many generations.

The family of Sanford has not from time out of mind occupied Nynehead Court. As far back as the records go the Fleury family seem to have been the first residents there, and appear to have given their name to the place, which is correctly styled Nynehead Fleury. Then came the Wikes, who probably had intermarried with the Fleurys, and occupied rather by right of inheritance than purchase.

The Sanford family is of considerable antiquity in the counties of Somerset and Devon.² The present possessor of Nynehead represents, through the marriage of Henry Sanford, Esq., of Nynehead (who d. 1644), with Mary, daughter of Henry Ayshford, Esq., of Ayshford, Devon, the Ayshfords of Ayshford, derived in lineal descent from Stephanus de Eisforde, of Eisforde, in the reign of William the Conqueror. The oldest Ayshford deed in possession of Mr. Sanford bears date 43 Henry III., and relates to a final award of a piece of land (still in Mr. Sanford's possession) between Perrel de Sanford and Thomas de Ayshford.

About 1600 the family became possessed of the manor of Nynehead, upon which they have ever since resided. The name

¹ Query, in what year?

² Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 1887, vol. ii.

and arms are seen on a tomb in the Temple Church, London, as those of Gilbert Sanford, who appears to have given his land to the Knights Templars in the reign of Henry II. His son, Gilbert Sanford, in the reign of King John, seems to have been connected with the Knights Templars, though not one of them. A record in the Heralds' College, London, shows that this Gilbert, who was feudal Baron of Sanford temp. Henry III., was Chamberlain in fee to Eleanor, Queen of Henry III. His son, Gilbert Sanford, inherited the manor of Hormade Magna, co. Hertford, and held it by serjeantcy of service in the Queen's chamber. His daughter and heiress, Alice, m. Rob. de Vere, 5th Earl of Oxford, and 6th hereditary Great Lord Chamberlain of England, and conveyed the manor to her husband, whose descendants sold it (temp. Queen Elizabeth) to Anthony Gage, citizen of London. His representative, Daniel Gage, at the coronation of James I., claimed the office of Chamberlain to the Queen, but failed to substantiate his claim. A brother of Gilbert, the first chamberlain, appears to have become connected with the Bassetts in Wales. The arms on the tomb of Martin Sanford, the first Sanford of Nynehead, are identical with those on a deed made between one of the Bassett family and Nicholas Sanford, respecting the manor of Liquid in Wales, which are the same as those of Baron Sanford.

Martin Sanford, the first of Nynehead, was High Sheriff for the county of Somerset in 1641. He received the thanks of Parliament for the part he took in the Civil War.

Mr. E. A. Sanford, the father of the present owner of the Nynehead property, was Member of Parliament for the Western Division of Somerset from 1830-37. Nynehead Court is an interesting building containing some valuable pictures, among them being portraits of Napoleon I., Locke, and his friend Edward Clarke.

Among Mr. Sanford's book rarities there is an Anglo-Norman translation of the Old Testament in two volumes, written in the

West of England, probably at Exeter, about the year 1260. It is of extreme rarity. One copy, said to be perfect, is at Paris, in what was formerly called the Bibliothèque du Roi. Another in good condition, but which only extends to the Book of Psalms, is in the British Museum. The story of how Mr. Sanford got possessed of his complete copy is so remarkable that it should at once be added to the many stories of rare MSS. and printed tomes. The second volume of this Bible was for two centuries the only one in the Sanfords' possession. At the time of Queen Elizabeth it was in the custody and owned by Thomas Wood, who left it to his son, Roger Wood, who probably had it bound, for it is stamped with 'R. W.' on the outside. By him it was left, with other books, to Roger Ayshford, who left it to his cousin, John Sanford, in the reign of Charles II. The first volume, for so many years separated from its fellow, was formerly in the possession of the Bamfylde family, who married an heiress of the Warre family of Hestercombe. Some years ago Mrs. Eagles, the wife of the clergyman of Hillfarrance, brought some illuminated capitals to Mr. W. A. Sanford, which she said she had cut from an old book found at Hestercombe. Mr. Sanford said the illuminated capitals were of no use without the other portion of the book, which he expressed a desire to see. Some years after this Mr. Sanford received a letter from Mrs. Warre, asking him to accept an old book she had found in her cellar. It turned out to be the first volume of the Bible of which he had already got the second, and in it were the capitals which Mrs. Eagles had cut out some years before.

Clarke of Chipley.—To mention this family is to go outside our proper boundaries, but the connexion of John Locke with a place only two and a half miles from the town warrants some reference here.

The first mansion at Chipley was a very old one, dating from the time of the Plantagenets. The first family who resided there was named Chipley, and from them it passed into the hands of a younger son of the Warres of Hestercombe. One Richard Warre

of Hestercombe died 25 November, 22 Edward IV., and being without issue was succeeded by his cousin, Richard Warre 'of Chippelegh,' who was the son of John Warre of Chippelegh, who was son of Robert Warre of Chippelegh, who was brother of John Warre of Hestercombe, who was father of Robert Warre, the father of the deceased Richard Warre.¹

Richard Warre of Chippelegh, who inherited the estate of Hestercombe in 1482, was a prominent actor in the public events of his county. On the marriage of Prince Arthur, in 1501, he was created Knight of the Bath. On that occasion he occurs in a list of the residents of the county of Somerset with the 'valewes of their yearlye Reuenewes, and of y^e Certificate of all them that shall be made Knights of y^e Bathe.' In 1530 he was a member of a commission, including Sir William Poulet, Sir Nicholas Wadham, and William Portman, Esq., appointed to examine into the lands of Cardinal Wolsey.

In the reign of Charles II., Edward Clarke, a younger son of the Clarkes of Wookey, married Miss Lottisham, whose mother was a Warre. This Edward Clarke became the intimate friend of Locke, and represented Taunton in Parliament from 1690-1708. Of Edward Clarke we must say more. He was a man of good position, and had held office as one of the Commissioners of Excise. Locke's acquaintance with him was evidently of very long standing, and during, at any rate, some time previous to his going to Holland, they had met and corresponded on terms of great intimacy.² Locke's work *On Education* was originally written for the benefit of one of Clarke's children, Betty, a boisterous, playful child, of whom the philosopher was very fond, and with whom he maintained a frequent correspondence, calling her generally his 'wife,' and sometimes 'Mrs. Locke.' The treatise *On Education* is believed to have been written at Chipley, and from the dedication

¹ *Som. Arch. Society Proceedings*, 1872, pp. 160, 161.

² *Fox-Bourne, Life of Locke*, vol. ii., p. 233.

of that work there is easily perceived the close relationship which caused them to have a common purse between them.¹

Dedication of Locke's *Thoughts concerning Education* :—

TO

EDWARD CLARKE, Esq., OF CHIPLEY.

SIR,—These thoughts concerning education, which now come abroad into the world, do of right belong to you, being written several years since for your sake, and are no other than what you have already by you in my letters. I have so little varied anything, but only the order of what was sent to you at different times, and on several occasions, that the reader will easily find, in the familiarity and fashion of the style, that they were rather the private conversation of two friends than a discourse designed for public view. My affection to you gave the first rise to it, and I am pleased that I can leave to posterity this mark of the friendship which has been between us: for I know no greater pleasure in this life, nor a better remembrance to be left behind one, than a long continued friendship with an honest, useful, and worthy man and lover of his country.

March 7, 1693.

The most friendly relations were maintained to the last between the philosopher and the country gentleman of Chipley. In Locke's will, made April 11th, 1704, he left to his friend Edward Clarke 200*l.*, and to his 'Betty' another 200*l.*, together with a portrait of his mother.²

Mr. Sanford, who has in his possession a large number of Locke's letters which have never been printed, has permitted me to print the following from Locke to Clarke, which is the latest letter that he has:—

28 April, 3 (17)04.

DEAR SIR,—I return my thanks to you for y^{rs} of the 11th instant, and to my wife⁴ for hers inclosed in it. I had done it sooner but that the increase of my distemper indisposeth me to every thing, for my life goes

¹ *Athenaeum*, April 20, 1861.

² Fox-Bourne, *Life of Locke*, Vol. II., p. 540.

³ Locke died 28 October, 1704.

⁴ Betty Clarke.

away in painfull short breathing, which I have reason to expect will quickly come to an end, since this warm fine weather we have lately had has been so far from relieving me that I have been the worse for it ; but whatever it shall please God to do with me, I shall always be concerned for you and your family whilst I am in this life and with all happiness continued to you when I am gone hence.

Dear Sir, I am your most affectionate and humble serv^t,

JOHN LOCKE.

Chipley House was entirely rebuilt in the reign of William III. The last Clarke died at Chipley about 1800, leaving the place to his steward, Mr. Martin.¹

Were.—The family of Were, or, as it was formerly spelt, Weare, is of great antiquity in the counties of Devon and Somerset.² Tradition states that their original name was Gifford, a younger branch, it is represented, of the Giffards of Brightley and Halseworthy ; and that they took the name of Weare only, upon inheriting that part of the property of the house of Giffard called Weare-Giffard, whereupon, as was the custom of that period, they assumed different arms. Whatever value may be attached to this tradition it is certain that the family of Weare, or Were, as it is now spelt, is of long standing in the neighbourhood, and the arms have been used by the existing branch for many generations. The genealogy of the family is not traceable farther back than to Thomas Were, eldest surviving son of Robert Weare, Esq., of Sampford Arundell, in Devon, who, it appears, spelt his name in the ancient style.

Thomas Were, his son, however wrote it in the modern mode, which has been continued by his descendants. He resided at Wellington in the beginning of the last century, and was possessed of

¹ It is said that Edward Clarke, when on his death-bed, sent to two of his relatives, who were proud and foolish tradesmen of Honiton, wishing to see them ; they declined to go because he would not send his carriage. After Edward Clarke's death the place was occupied by a gentleman who never slept in the house or would remain there by himself.—*Atbeneum*, April 6, 1861.

² Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 1846.

the lands of Great and Little Sowden, the Westleigh estates, Old Baums, Escotts, Osmonds, Penslade, and other properties, together with the manor of Runnington, Landcox, Rockwell Green, Perry Elm, Jurston, and other estates. He married, about the year 1716, Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Berry, Esq., and had eight sons and three daughters.

Thomas Were's second brother was Peter Were, Esq., of Sampford Arundell, and Were's Cot, near Wellington, whose son, Ellis, was a partner in the firm of Curtis, Were, Robarts, & Co., the London bankers. Thomas Were had also one sister, Elizabeth, who married George Fox, of Perran, near Falmouth. There was thus established a connexion between two prominent local families, the Weres and the Fox's.

The Were family is also allied to the Matravers family of Wilts, the Harfords of Blaize, and the Prideaux's of Kingsbridge.

Fox.—George Fox, of Par (2nd son of Francis Fox, of St. Germans) married twice. From the first marriage sprung the Fox's of Kingsbridge, Wellington, Wadebridge, Exeter. From the second marriage, those of Falmouth, Plymouth, Gloucester, and Brislington. George Fox (*supra*) m. (1) Mary, daughter of Edward Bealing, of Penryn, and by her had two daughters and one son: Edward Fox, of Wadebridge, who m. 1745, Anna, second daughter of Thomas Were, of Wellington. He died, having had issue nine children. The eldest son of these was George Fox, of Perran. The second son, Thomas Fox, of Wellington, born Jan. 17, 1747, m. April 2, 1783, Sarah Smith, daughter of Thomas Smith, banker, of Lombard Street, He died April 29, 1821, having had fifteen children. Of these—

Sylvanus, the ninth, in turn married Mary Sanderson, the philanthropist and companion of Elizabeth Fry, and had issue, (among others): Anna Rebecca, m. Edward Burnet Tylor, F.R.S., D.C.L.¹

Samuel, the eleventh, m. April 16, 1827, Maria Middleton.²

¹ See Bibliography.

² See Bibliography.

Charles Fox, the fifteenth, m., Sept. 19, 1827, Sarah Crewdson, and had issue (among others), Wilson, M.D., F.R.S., Physician-in-Ordinary to the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. Mr. Wilson Fox was a native of Wellington, being born here Nov. 2, 1831. He was educated at the Quaker School, Bruce Grove, Tottenham. He took the degree of B.A. (Lond.) 1850, gained further honours, and took M.D. in 1855. For two years he studied under Professor Virchow at Berlin, and in 1859 married Emily, daughter of Wesley Doyle, Esq., who died 1870.

Upon the recommendation of Professor Virchow he obtained the post of Professor of Pathological Anatomy at University College, London. Dr. Fox married, secondly, Evelyn, daughter of Sir Baldwyn Wake Walker, Bart., and widow of Captain Hugh Burgoyne. He died at Preston, May 3, 1887. In October, 1888, a bust of Wilson Fox was unveiled at Taunton Shirehall.¹

Wolcott.—As far back as can be definitely traced, the Wolcotts occupied a good social position in this part.² Tolland, near Bishops Lydeard, was their ancestral seat, but a branch of the family with which we are particularly interested lived at Longforth, within a mile of Wellington. One Henry Wolcott emigrated in 1630, and became a man of position and substance in the States. He is thus described:—

This year (1665) died Henry Wolcott, Esq., in the 78th year of his age. He was the owner of a good estate in Somersetshire, in England. His youth, it is said, was spent in gayety and country pastimes, but afterwards, under the instruction of Mr. Edward Elton, his mind was entirely changed. . . . As the Puritans were then treated with great severity he sold about 8000*l.* of estate in England, and prepared for a removal into America. He was chosen into the magistracy in 1643, and continued in it till his death. He left an estate in England, which rented at about 60*l.* a year, which the family for some time enjoyed, but was afterwards sold. After his decease, some one of his descendants was annually chosen into the

¹ For list of his works, see Bibliography.

² *The Wolcott Memorial, New York.*

magistracy for a term of nearly eighty years. Some of them have been members of the Assembly, Judges of the Superior Court, or magistrates, from the first settlement of the colony to this time, during the term of more than a century and a half.¹

The Wolcotts are traced in Wellington up to the early part of the last century, and at Bishops Lydeard there still reside several members of this old family. Considerable interest is centred in the very quaint letters of John and Hugh Wolcott, written from Wellington two hundred and forty years ago. I cannot but think that the present townspeople will agree in giving the following epistles a generous welcome. They will certainly repay insertion for the insight—meagre though it may be—that they give into the state of the town at so lively a period, for which the sources of information are not plentiful :

John Wollcott to his brother Henry Wollcott.

ffrom Wellington, the 6th of february, 1650.

Loved Brother, my kind love and best respects to you remem, and to my sister in Law, wth all the rest of my Cozens In generall remem. Hopinge in the lord you are all in good health, as wec all were at the present writinge hereof, praysed be God for it. These few lines are to give you to understand that I do much desire to here from you to have Answere of my former letteres sent unto you the last yere, w^{ch} I hope you have receved. I did desire to have a dischardge by your letter of the account betweene you and mee till Micklemas 1649, of w^{ch} I have made full satisfaction to Henric Wollcott and Rich. Skinner for all busines past till that time except the s^d five pounds above £300, and I desire to have a dischardge of the £30 bond that was left in M^r Venns hands, and at Micklemas 1649 I left of house-keping, and my selfe and wife and Daughter Elizabethe doth Rent 2 or three roones of my sonn Hugh Woollcott, in the house my sister did lieve, and since that time my sonn did take Longforth of your Trustees, and was to pay £10 p^r annum, and you to dischardge all Taxes except church and poore, w^{ch} they sent you by the last letter, and what money is behind in his

¹ Trumbull, *History of Connecticut.*

hand he is verie willinge to pay when you shall send order and a dischardge under the hands of your overseers. My sonn is desirous to know your mind in it, where you will sett it for longer terme, for he doth bestowe a great chardge in dressing of it, and all the fodder he hath growne is spent on it, and now they have made him pay for owr owne chardge w^{ch} is bestowed one [on] it. Henrie Wollcott and Rich. Skinner and Mr Trott hath seene it all 3, and doe all like well of his Husbandrie. If at anie time you desire that my sonn may be heard before another it is Indif. Quiet wth us here in England at present, but warrs in Ireland and Scotland, but prased be god they doe much prevaile, we have still greate taxes how to maintaine the armies in both lands and the fleete at seaes, soe I have noe other nuse to Trobel you wth at present, but desirous to here from you or to see you here in England I rest

Allwaies your Loved Brother till Death,

JOHN WOLLCOTT.

I have never lost anie opportun when I could send letteres unto you. I have Re. a letter from this letter was written the same day, dated the 7th month the 23rd day, where I understand my Cozen Henrie hath a intent to com over to take an account for you, it is wth out anie great doubt by god's protection safe passadge over sea, and in England quiet over the lands for the present, and verie hopefull to continue, soe I leave you to the protection of the Almighty god to prosper you and familie.

To my verie Loved Brother Mr Henrie Wollcott,
at Winsor plantation, neere Connectecott Rivir,
in New England.

From the same.

Wellington, the 11th of februar, 1650.

. . . . These few lines are to certifie you that I have reced. a letter from you dated the 23rd of the 7th month, in w^{ch} you write that my Cozen Henrie doth Intend to come over eyther this yere or the next to take up your accounts. I should be verie glad to see him here wth us, and I shall desire that he will be pleased to take my house for his resting place. I will promise him trulie wellcom, for our condition here I neede not to write. I did somewhat certifie by my other letter, dated the 6th of this prsent month, that Mr Trott can certifie anie thing what you shall desire. You wrote to know if my sister in laws brothers and sisters were living. Thomas Saunders

is dead, Robert Saunders is yet living, and young George Saunders hath bought his father's living, and is married, he is the house kepper wth his mother, and for my sonn John we have noe nuse of him since you were here. I have sent 2 letters more, one for you and the other from my sonn to my cozen Henrie. All Reconing hath bin past to Henrie Wollcott and Richard Skinner till Micklemas 1649, and there was £6 due to you, w^{ch} I paid them, and also Constable had 3£ 10s., the rest was in cloth, as they told me by your direction, and what money is due to you since that time you shall have it returned by your next order. So I having noe nuse to troble you wth at the present I rest,

Allwaies your Loving Brother till Death,

JOHN WOLCOTT.

To my verie Loved Brother Mr. Henrie Wollcott,
at Windsor, neere Connetecot River in New
England.

From his Nephew.

Wellington, the 25th of March, 1654.

. . . . These few lines are to certifie you that my father is dead. He died the 17th of februar, 1652. And for the rent of Tolland Mill I have made Even wth my Cozen Henrie till the 25th of March, 1654, and for longforth it doth appeare in the purchase deede to be a chattell lease, noe tearm expressed, purchased to one Nicholis Greenslad. Now I should desire of you to certifie how Old m^r John Greenslade came to have the Inherit. of this land, and by what lawfull titell he made it to my Uncle Christoph. and his heires. It seemes by the deede that two akers of bulls meadow and 3 akers more called Giffords Burgadge was purchased by the same deede, w^{ch} my kinsman hath a counterpart of the deede. My father bought of you 3 akers in bulls meadow, w^{ch} was all that whole piece, and after bull did make it appeare that he had a 3 p^{re}t^e for w^{ch} I paid 22' 10^s to one berrie, that had bought it of bull, w^{ch} money, if it were in case of conscience, ought to be allowed, and in regard that the State is not to be made good w^{ch} was bought, I shall desire you to be certified by your next letter how the fee came to m^r Greenslade, and for Tolland Mill there are some goods w^{ch} were my grandfathers and my fathers. And now I preeaive by my Cozen Henrie you have noe Intent to Departe wth the Estate, you shall buy such household goods as I have there, if you please,

for I am loth they should be removed. I shall desire an answer in these particulars. I have made Even in all things wth you till the 25th of March, 1654, leaving the 22^l appon an Equal triall. Soe I having noe other thing to trubell you wth but that my kinsman can certifie you of allmost all our prcedings, I rest,

Allwaies your Dutifull kinsman till Death,

HUGH WOLLCOTT.

To my verie Lov^d Uncle, m^r Henri Wollcott, at Winsor, neere Connetecott River, in New England, give this, I pray you.

John Wolcott to Henry Wolcott (Junior).

. . . . These are to give you to understand that your Brother Simon hath been verie sicke of late, and soe hath your sisters alsoe. But now thanks be to almighty god they are reasonabelly wel againe. Your Brother John continues in his ould course of livinge. We shall al desire to have your companie with us so soone as conveniently you can. Good Cozen, let me Intreate you to write to me of the manner and situation of the country. I have sent you in your Box a quire of paper be kause you shall remember to write unto me. Soe in hast I leavinge you to the prtexion of the almighty god I end and restt,

Your Inseperabel Cozen,

JOHN WOLLCOTT (JR.).

To his Lovinge Cozen, Henry Wolcott, Junior, in Matapan, Dorchester, these in New England.

From his Nephew.

from Wellington the 6th februar, 1650.

. . . . These few lines are to cert. you that I much desire to here from you, otherwise to see you here in England wth us to settle things in a right order, for now, prsd be god, wth us at present we are at quiet. But here are divisions oftimes wth us in divers places, but most of all in Scotland and Ireland, in w^{ch} there are two great armies of horse and foote, and more still in a redines to be sent fr^m England; but our armies doth verie well prosper both by sea and land. We have allwaies greate payments here to maintayne the warrs both at home and abroade, but we hope in a short time

it will all overcome. I live still in Wellington. My father and mother-in-law doth live in house wth me, but they have left of housekeping, and doe live private wth my youngest sister. Elizabeth is Unmar. and doth live wth them. I shall desire to here from your brothers, for my Uncle Haine doth hold a house here in towne by my Cozen Chr. life and George, and his landladie will make him to approve they are livinge, or else she will take possession of the estate. I shall desir you to certifie me by your next letter, and I shall be redie and willing to doe you the like curtesie If with in my power. Your father hath som rent behind in my hand. I wish I had order for the disposinge of it. I shall be glad to retaine it to his use If I might have safe conveyance. Soe I rest and Remaine your loved poore kinsman till Death,

HUGH WOLCOTT.

To my Lov^d kinsman m^r Henri Wollcott, Jun^r, at Winsor, neere Connettecott River, in New England, give these.

Prowse.—In the *Visitation* pedigrees¹ (1623). George Prouze, of Wellington (living in 1623) is stated to be the son of John Prowze, of Tiverton,² to have married Thomazine, daughter of James Goddard, of Wellington. This George Prouze, of Wellington, was the only child who died with any offspring, and his descendants will be found to have intermarried with the Kenns of Kenn, the Powlets of Gatehurst, and the Bissey's of Bishops Hull.³ *Extract from the Will of James Prowse*⁴—James Prowse, of Lancock,⁵ Somerset, will undated, proved March 3, 1672 by Ann Prowse, the relict: ‘To be buried in the upper end of the church of Norton, Fitzwarren, where I usually sit. My cousin Alexander Blanchflower, my son William Prowse, my daughter Philippa Prowse, my son Thomas, a tenement in Wellington. My son James, my wife Ann.’⁶

¹ *Herald's Visitation*, 1623, Harl. Society. ² Tiverton. ³ *Herald's Visitation*, p. 88.

⁴ Brown, *Somersetshire Wills*, Vol. I. p. 83. ⁵ Now known as Lindon.

⁶ James Prowse married Ann, daughter of Thomas Fanshawe, of Barking, Essex, Esq., April 2, 1638. William Fanshawe, of London, merchant, in his will, July 24, 1679, bequeaths 200*l.* to ‘my sister Ann Prowse, widow, and 100*l.* to each of my nephews, William and Thomas, and my neice Philippa Prowse.’ James Prowse admitted to Inner Temple, 1657.

Extract from the Will of Ann Prowse.—Ann Prowse, relict of James Prowse, of Landcocks in Wellington, Somerset, Esqr, deceased, will dated September 25, 1684, proved December 5, 1684, by the Exors. ‘To my eldest son, James Prowse, his Godfather’s picture in gold. Poor of Wellington 5*l.*, and of Norton Fitzwarren, 40*s.* I have disbursed 150*l.* to place out my son, William Prowse. I give the like sums to my daughter, Philippa Prowse, and to my son, Thomas Prowse; and the residue to my three children. My mother-in-law, Mrs. Philip Prowse, Sir Charles Fanshawe, and John Fanshawe, of Jenkins, Essex, and George Prowse, of Yeovil, joint Exors.’

Bovet.—This family had at one time considerable influence in the neighbourhood. More particularly did they distinguish themselves as siding with Cromwell, and later with Monmouth. At the time of the Civil War, when Popham’s house was besieged, ‘the mansion having changed hands was turned into a garrison and was helde out against the king; but not by any of the Judge’s family, but by one Bovet.’¹ Philip Bovet was one of the unfortunate three who suffered death in the town at the hands of Jeffreys. In 1685 Katherine Bovet, daughter of Colonel Bovet, headed the twelve other maids of Taunton in presenting colours to the Duke of Monmouth.²

Richard Bovet, a member of this family, was the author of a curious but forgotten book of folk-lore called *The Pandaemonium*.³ Most of the stories in this volume refer to incidents which occurred in this neighbourhood, but only one, as far as is known, has ever been reprinted. It refers to a haunted house ‘in a small town in the West of England,’ and the events, taken for what they are worth, may well have transpired in this house where Richard Bovet lived.

A Richard Bovet having married a woman of quality and substance the ceremony was accompanied by festivities and display.

‘Richard Bovet, of Wellington, Somerset, Esq., to Miss Joan Thomas, with 20,000*l.*⁴ On this occasion he gave the carcases of 20 sheep, a fat ox, and 200 horseloads of wood to the poor; and

¹ *Magna Britannia*, 1727.

³ See under Bovet in Bibliography.

² Roberts’ *Duke of Monmouth*.

⁴ *Gent. Mag.* 1749, p. 572.

one of the 6 bells being cracked with ringing, he ordered 3 new bells to make the ring 8 ; also the organ pipes to be repaired, and added 10*l.* yearly to the organist's salary.¹ Thomas Bovet, son of above, matriculated 27 May, 1772, aged 18 ; B.C.L. 1784 ; D.C.L. 1785.² He m. Frances, dau. of Lord and Lady Francis Seymour, Dean of Wells, and had issue : (1) Edward, died young ; (2) Catharine Maria, m. (1) J. D. Greenhill, Esq., and (2) Rev. S. Everard, D.D. ; (3) Francis, died young ; (4) Caroline Seymour, m. P. George, Esq., of Bath, and (5) Edward.

Pulman and Procter-Thomas.—A family still represented here. Rev. William Procter-Thomas, vicar of Wellington, from 1843 until his death, 29 Oct. 1850, was locally the best known member.³ Others are—John Thomas, son of John, of Wellington, Balliol Coll. matric. 6 July, 1733, aged 18.

John Thomas, son of William Proctor, of Wellington, Trinity Coll. Oxford, matric. 14 March, 1766, aged 18 ; B.C.L. 1773.

James Heard Pulman, son of James Pulman, born 1821, Librarian to the House of Lords since 1861.

Procter Thomas Pulman, B.A., born 1854, joint author of *Notanda*, called to the bar, 1879, eldest son of late William Walker Pulman, vicar of Wellington, Somerset.

Lackington.—James Lackington, the famous London bookseller, was a native of Wellington. He was born here on August 31, 1746. His father was George Lackington, a shoemaker ; his mother the daughter of a poor weaver in the town. The former killed himself by excessive tippling, leaving his wife so poor that she could not afford to pay for the schooling of her son. So the early education of Lackington was neglected, and it became his chief delight to excel in ‘all kinds of boyish mischief, so that if any old woman's lanthorn was kicked out of her hands, or if her door was nailed up, I was

¹ For other Members of the Bovet family see under Monmouth Rebellion. George Bovet, son of George, of Winsham, Somerset, matric. 10 May, 1746, aged 19.—*Foster, Alumni.*

² *Foster, Alumni.*

³ *Ibid.*

sure to be accused as the author.' He tried his hand at shoemaking, but could make nothing of it; and in 1773 he went to London and opened a bookshop. From this time his career is marked by unchecked progress. After a time Lackington found it necessary to move to a large shop at the corner of Finsbury Square; his business had vastly increased, and his fame as a cheap bookseller had extended far beyond the limits of the capital into the provinces. With this success he lived lavishly, exciting a good deal of malignant jealousy by his costly carriage and flunkies. Of all the incidents in the life of Lackington there is none which awakens our curiosity more than his visit to Wellington, when in the height of his popularity. This occurred in 1791, when, in a great state, he set out in his own chariot from his house at Merton, in Surrey, to visit his birthplace and the scenes of his boyhood.

The town then consisted of but comparatively few houses, which clustered round the church, and the occupants of them were never disturbed save by 'the twanging horn' and the frequent arrival of a Bristol or an Exeter coach. 'The bells rang merrily out all the day of my arrival. I was also honoured with the attention of many of the most respectable people in and near Wellington, and other parts, some of whom were pleased to inform me that the reason of their paying particular attention to me was their having heard that I did not so far forget myself as many proud upstarts had done. They were pleased to express a wish that, as soon as I could dispose of my business, I would come down to spend the remainder of my days among them. These ideas were pleasing to me and perhaps may be realized.'¹ The autobiography which Lackington published contains many anecdotes of this neighbourhood, but unfortunately the book is not reliable, nor is it fit to be reprinted, for, turn where we may, some obscene passage presents itself. In his *Confessions*, published later, he retracts and contradicts much that he printed in his former volumes.²

¹ They were not realised, however.

² See two papers on 'Lackington and his *Memoirs*,' in *The Bookworm* for May and June, 1888.

Salkeld, John.—A vicar of Wellington, and a member of the well-known Cumberland family.

John Salkeld was the second son of Edward Salkeld, lineally descended from Sir Richard Salkeld, Kt., Lord Warden of Carlisle in the time of King Richard III. He was at Oxford when young, though it is difficult to trace him to any College, and the Oxford chronicler¹ says that his continuance at that University was ‘so short (occasion’d by his religion) that we can scarce reckon him among the Oxonians.’ His father sent him away early into Spain, and he was brought up as a Jesuit in the University of Conimbræ. He continued some time at Corduba and Complutum as a Jesuit, and became tutor to two famous Jesuits, Francis Suarius and Michael Vasquez. Being sent into England, he was taken before James I., who had already heard of him as a learned man. The King entered into some arguments with him, and was successful enough to convince and convert him, and having done this he presented him to the living of Wellington in 1613. James called him the learned Salkeld, and he referred to himself as the Royal convert. In 1635 he became vicar of Church Staunton, and died at Uffculme, February 1659, aged 84 years ‘or more.’² He left behind ‘several things of his composition fit for the press, among which were two concerning controversies between Rome and the Church of England, and another of the end of the world; which last and one of the former were conveyed to London by his son to his kinsman, Sir Edw. Walker, Garter King-of-Arms, who communicating one of the said former things to Dr. Sam. Parker, chaplain to Dr. Sheldon, Archb. of Canterbury, to know of him whether it was fit to be printed, he found it a solid piece, and the author of it learned, but the design Cassandrian, as by his letters I was informed.’³

¹ Wood, *Athenæ by Bliss*, 1817, Vol. III. pp. 488-9.

² Wood.

³ The works referred to here are evidently different from the two books mentioned as being by Salkeld under Bibliography.

Smith, George, Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong, was a native of this town. He was born in 1815; studied at Magdalen College, Oxford, B.A. 1837, M.A. 1843, created D.D. March, 1849.¹ The first few years of his clerical life were passed in parochial work at Goole, in Yorkshire; but he soon resolved to devote himself to missionary labour, and in 1844 was nominated to a station at Hong Kong. This mission he worked with such extraordinary assiduity and success that the Church rapidly extended, and it was determined to establish an episcopal see, to include the island of Hong Kong and the congregations of the Church of England in China. Dr. Smith was consecrated the first Bishop in 1849, and continued to discharge the duties of his office till 1865, when he retired.² He died 14th December, 1871.³

Baynes, Thomas Spencer.—Mr. Baynes was a worthy of whom Wellington ought to be very proud. He was the son of Joseph Baynes, whose career has been sketched elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Baynes was born in 1823, being one of the ten sons whom his father was blessed with. He was originally meant by his parents to go in for the ministry, and received his education partly at the Baptist College in Bristol. As his tastes did not appear to lie in that direction, he finished his education at Edinburgh University. In 1851 he became assistant to Sir William Hamilton, and published in that year a translation of the 'Port Royal Logic,' which has gone through seven editions.

It is said that though Sir William Hamilton conceived a great liking for Mr. Baynes, he used to be annoyed by certain provincial characteristics which at first clung to the young Somersetshire student.

At the Bristol College, Mr. Baynes had for one of his fellow-students the late Dr. Charles Stanford, of Camberwell. A good story is told of a prank which the witty Stanford played at the expense of Baynes. The latter, like some other students, was called

¹ *Foster, Alumni.*

² *Annual Register, 1871.*

³ For list of Smith's works, see *Bibliography*.

upon to preach almost every Sunday, but contrived to get through this part of his work with a phenomenally small stock of sermons. One of the two or three, having for its subject 'The Christian Race,' he had delivered so often that latterly he never required to look at the MS. before plumping it into his bag on leaving for the place at which he was fixed to preach. Intimately conversant with his habits, and knowing that Baynes was down for an important London pulpit on a coming Sunday, Stanford, who had a marvellous faculty as a humorous etcher, privately secured the famous sermon on the 'Race,' and filled up every inch of the margin and blank pages with the most excruciatingly comic illustrations of the subject so eloquently expounded by the preacher. The amazement of Baynes, when, in his usual dignified manner, he unfolded his sermon before the great congregation may be imagined, and the difficulty with which he got through that morning's service never faded from his memory.¹

In 1857 Mr. Baynes became assistant editor of the *Daily News* and a frequent contributor to the foremost literary journals. In 1875 he was appointed editor of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, a monumental work with which his name will always be associated. His principal contribution to that work, outside the general editorship, was the long treatise on *Shakespeare*, an exhaustive essay with the stuff of a volume in it. It has been stated in reference to this essay that the local environment of the poet, and the influences which conspired to make him, have never been so profoundly studied.

Some of the best work ever done by Mr. Baynes appeared in the leading columns of the *Daily News* in the years immediately preceding his appointment to the Chair at St. Andrews. His leading article on the death of the Prince Consort elicited private inquiries from Her Majesty as to its authorship, which were followed by a message of special thanks. Mr. Baynes died in 1887. He is buried at Hampstead Cemetery.²

¹ *British Weekly.*

² See Bibliography.

Baynes, Joseph Ash, brother of the foregoing, was also a native of Wellington, and perhaps the most gifted of a very gifted family. Forty years ago Joseph Ash Baynes was acknowledged *facile princeps* among pulpit orators, and as a scholar, speaker, and preacher, he made a deep impression in many parts of the country.

Gardiner, John, son of William Gardiner, an eminent agriculturalist, was born near Wellington in 1757. He was educated at Tiverton, whence he went to the University of Glasgow, and there studied Civil Law. He then entered the Middle Temple with a view to qualify himself for the bar. His tastes and inclinations induced him to exchange the law for the church, and for this purpose he entered Wadham College, Oxford, and became B.A. 1782, M.A. 1796, B. and D.D. 1796, J.P. Somerset. In after years he resided with his father at Wellington, performing the duty of curate gratuitously here. During his later years he officiated at the Octagon Chapel, Bath. Died 11th August, 1838.

Crosthwaite, Robert Jarratt, born at Wellington, the third son of Benjamin Crosthwaite, who was curate of Wellington fourteen years, and grandson of the Rev. Robert Jarratt, who was vicar of Wellington for more than half a century. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his degree in the year 1860, after passing as Eighth Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos. Is now (1889) Bishop of Beverley, and Rector of Bolton Percy, Yorks.

The Cradle of the Southey's.—There is affixed to the first chapter of the *Life of Southey*, the poet, an autobiographical fragment which the Laureate had evidently prepared with great care, partly from family traditions and partly from the Registers of the parish church here. In the Lay Subsidies of 1545, p. 37, there appears the name, Jokes Sowthye, a man of evident substance according to the sum at which he was assessed, and who in all probability was the 'great

clothier of Wellington,' and the proud father of the eleven sons referred to by the poet in the following :¹—

‘I cannot trace my family farther back by the Church Registers than Oct. 25, 1696, on which day my grandfather, Thomas, the son of Robert Southeys, and Anne, his wife, was baptized at Wellington in Somersetshire. The said Robert Southeys had seven other children, none of whom left issue. In the subsequent entries of their birth (for Thomas was the eldest) he is designated sometimes as yeoman, sometimes as farmer. His wife's maiden name was Locke, and she was of the same family as the philosopher. She must have been his niece or daughter of his first cousin.

‘I have heard that Robert's grandfather, that is, my great-great-great-grandfather (my children's *Tritavus*) was a great clothier at Wellington, and had eleven sons, who peopled that part of the country with Southeys. In Robert's days there were no fewer than seven married men of the name in the same parish. Robert himself was the younger of two sons, and John, his elder brother, was the head of the family. They must have been of gentle blood (though so obscure that I have never by any accident met with the name in a book), for they bore arms in an age when armorial bearings were not assumed by those who had no right to them. The arms are a chevron, argent, and three cross crosslets, argent, and a field sable. I should like to believe that one of my ancestors had served in the Crusades, or made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. One has left the reputation of having been a great soldier; in the great rebellion I guess it must have been, but I neither know his name nor on what side he fought. Another (and this must have been the Robert with whom my certain knowledge begins) was, as the phrase is, out in Monmouth's insurrection. . . . My father had the sword which was drawn in this unlucky quarrel; but it was lost in the wreck of his affairs.’

Thomas Southeys, the grandfather of the poet, removed in after-life from Wellington to Holford Farm, Lydeard St. Laurence, to an estate belonging to a wealthy uncle, one John Southeys,

¹ Mr. Richard Corner, The Bower, Wellington, is a known representative in the neighbourhood of this old and interesting family. Mr. Corner's (maternal) grandfather was a direct descendant of one of the eleven tribes of Southeys. An estate in the parish of Culmstock is now in the possession of Mr. Corner, and that gentleman has deeds dating from Edward VI., pointing to the place being in the ownership of the Southeys for many generations.

who had gone out from Wellington and married an heiress, but was not unmindful of his less fortunate relations. This John Southey appears in the list of subscribers to Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*.

Miscellaneous. Extracts from Wills.

12 Feb. 1543. I, Will^m Bonde, of Buckland by Wellington, in the countey of Somerset, hole of mynde, etc. My body to be buried in the churchyard of buckland. To the churchwarcks of Wells, viijd. To the churchwarks of Wellington, iijs. iiijd. To the churchwerks of Buckland, vjs. viijd. To my sonnes and daughters children to all suche to whom I am grandfather, to every of them xijd. The Risydew of my goods I give and bequeth to Dewns bond my wyffe, etc. Executrix, etc., to dystribute and dyspose p^te of my goods to my children unmaryed accordinge to her dyscrecon. Wytness this my wyll, Wyll^m Bowerman, Subdean of Wells, and Thomas Ludwell. Proved in the Cathedral Church of Wells, 21 Dec., 1549.

John Perry of Gerberston, in West Buckland, Somerset, Gent. Will dated March 3, 1581, proved May 3, 1582, by John Perry. Money to the poor. My wife, Elizabeth, £100. To Jane Lancaster, my wife's kinswoman, 100 marks. My sister Agnes' children. Henry and John Chute, my sister's sons. Mary Popham, my god-daughter, £10. John Perry of Ninehead Flory, 40s. My brother-in-law, Mr. William Lancaster, an angel of gold. His children, Thomas, Roger, Edward, Thomasine, and Mary. My brother, John Perry, of Halse, and Robert, his son. To Mr. John Popham, Attorney-General, £20. To Mr. Nicholas Wadham, Esqr, one payr of new sylke stockings of purple in grayne. To Mrs. John Francis, of Combe Flory, a short gowne furred throughout, with Callaber. To Mr. Robert Freke, Esq., £5. My cousin, Mr. John Lancaster, a new satin doublett.¹

¹ Brown, *Somerset Wills*, Vol. I.

John Rytherdon, of Thorne St. Margaret, Somerset, Gent. Will dated Jan. 10, 1572, proved Jan. 26, 1572, by Mary Woode. To be buried in the chancel of the church, near my wife. William Rytherdon, my son and heir. To Joan Wakeham, £10. To every of the children of Mary Woodall, £3. I forgive to Tristram Ritherden the debt he owes me. Poor of Wellington and Melverton, 5s. To Roger Rytherdone, my son, two heifers, my best coate, and my grograyne dublett. To William Rytherdon the £19 which he oweth me for wool, etc. Residue to my daughter, Mary Wood, Exix. My friend, Nicholas Bluett, of Cotthay John Wood the elder, Esqr, and William Bluett, Gent., Supervisors.

Dorothy Ritherdon, of Wellington, Somerset, gentlewoman. Will dated Jan. 3, 1661, proved May 17, 1662, by Xtopher Sanford. Poor of Langford Budville, Thorne St. Margaret, and Wellington. My nephew, Humphrey Jacob, his son, William Jacob, and his daughter, Katherine Huddy. My niece, Mary Flen. My nephew, Humphrey Sanford, £20. His son, Xtopher Sanford, Katherine Bernes (?) his daughter, Humphrey, William, Henry, and John, sons of the said Humphrey Sanford the elder, £20 each. Xtopher Sanford, son of my nephew, William Sanford, £15. Solomy, relict of the said William Sanford, £5, and to his other four sons and two daughters, £5 each. My cousins Gard and Cockrain. My nephew, Xtopher Sanford the elder, Exor. My cousin Alice, wife of the said Xtopher. Dorothy his daughter. My cousin Jane, wife of Xtopher Sanford the younger, two gold rings. Their son, Gilbert Sanford, Mr. Tristram Wood, and Mr. John Thomas, overseers.¹

A centenarian, whose age the late Mr. W. J. Thoms could not have called into question, died here in 1876. This was Betty Mogford, who was born on the 8th of August, 1771.² Her maiden name was Thorne, but at the age of twenty, she

¹ In the *Heralds' Visitation*, 1623, William Ritherdon is living at Langford Budville, aet. 50. A pedigree of this family may be found in the same *Visitation*, p. 92.

² The entry can be seen in the Parish Register.

married a woolcomber named John Mogford. Betty's husband did not turn out well, for he heartlessly deserted her, and though in after years he was anxious to return, she declined his further acquaintance. Mrs. Mogford could carry her memory back as far as 1780, and all the events of the Peninsular Campaign were fresh in her mind. She would tell of the terror of the pressgang, and how one honest Wellingtonian was stowed away for a fortnight in a dark hole beneath the stairs, 'cause the gang shouldn't press 'em into service and lug 'em away.'

The families of Bridge, Burridge,¹ Cadbury, Cookson,² Coram, Elworthy, Gatty, Gay, Gifford, Kidgell, Prideaux,³ Proctor-Thomas, Rodham, and White, have been represented here, and may be traced in the Registers of this or neighbouring parishes.

¹ See Foster's *Alumni*.

² Sir Charles Alfred Cookson is a native of Wellington; b. 1831; fifth son of the late Christopher Cookson, of Nowers, Wellington; called to the Bar 26th Jan., 1867; B.A. Oriel Coll., Oxon, 1855; Second Delegate on Judicial Reform Commission at Cairo, 1880-81; legal adviser in Cyprus; Member of the Executive Council and Judicial Commission, 1878-9; Consul at Alexandria, and Judge of H.M.'s Chief Consular Court for Egypt since 1874; Vice-Consul, Law Secretary, and Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Levant, 1869-1874; C.B. 1881. Mr. Montague Hughes Cookson, Q.C., D.C.L., sixth son of the late Christopher Cookson, was also born at Wellington, 24th Feb., 1832. Late Fellow of St. John's Coll., Oxon, 1861; Double First-class, 1866; m. 6th April, 1869, Blanche A. E., younger daughter of Rev. E. C. Holt. Mr. Cookson was a candidate for Parliament at the General Election of 1885. He has recently taken the name of Crackenthorpe.—Foster, *Men at the Bar*.

³ See Bibliography.

CIVIL WAR AND MONMOUTH REBELLION.

The Searching of houses, 1642—The levelling of Popham's residence—The losses of Anne Martyn—The murder of Lieut. Eure in the Streets of Wellington—Raising the 'Hue and Cry'—The Monmouth Rebellion—Roundhead spirit—First tidings of Monmouth's landing—Letters of Albemarle from Wellington—Fielding and Wellington—The Bloody Assize—'One of Welinton'—The three Martyrs—The Pillory at Wellington—The Sword of Mary Bridge—Notices of the town in the seventeenth century—Wellington Cross—Tradesmen's Tokens—Daniel Defoe at Wellington.

AFTER the skirmishing at Polden Hill, on the Mendips, August 4, 1642, when the first blood was shed in the Civil War, the Parliamentary party still more closely watched any one who might be supposed to side with the King or be disaffected towards the Parliament.

Mr. Martin Sanford, of Nynehead, was at this time High Sheriff, but he was not a robust man, and some important duties devolved upon his eldest son, Mr. Henry Sanford, particularly that of searching houses all over the county to discover arms secreted by Royalists or Papists. From a Civil War Tract¹ we learn that Mr. H. Sanford, after prosecuting a search at Taunton, 'marched to the out parishes

¹ A Coppie of a Letter read in the House of Commons, sent from Master Sampford, High Sheriff of the Countie of Somerset, and the Committee there, of their weekly proceedings, in searching the Recusants Houses. Also the number of such ammunition as was taken in their Houses and sent to the Castle at Taunton. Printed August 26, 1642.

as Badford (Bradford), Neneard (Nynehead), Langford, and Wellington, and in Badford, searching Captain Collins house, found therein ten mens Armour, and in Master Easons house, of the same parish, five mens Armour ; at Nyneard, searching Master Sheeres house, found therein 40 mens Armour of pike and musquet, and at Langford, at Master Prowses house, 20 mens Armour ; and at Wellington, in Master Strawbridges house, 50 mens Armour.'

But apart from a sensational incident, of which full details are given farther on, Wellington did not take a prominent part in the Civil War. The town, though well in sympathy with the strong Parliamentary forces garrisoned at Taunton, and no doubt contributing many of their number, was not the scene of such recurring outbursts and severe hardships as endured at Taunton from Goring's 'Crew.' Goring and Sir Richard Grenville, the Royalist leaders in the West, in 1645, were struggling for supremacy one over another, and when, in April, Goring received orders to march into Wiltshire Grenville was left to his own plans, and commenced by sweeping the whole district around Taunton of all provisions.

Wellington had probably been supplying Blake with necessaries for some time, and this much we know, that Colonel Bovet, a very ardent Parliamentarian, got possession, by stratagem it is said, of Popham's house and made it a stronghold for his party.

So against Wellington Grenville directed the Royalist force and levelled Popham's house almost to the ground, himself being so severely injured that the leadership of his men had to be transferred to Sir John Barkley.

The following document will show the state in which the town must have been at this time, 19 October, 1650 :¹—‘ Certificate addressed to Justices of Peace, of Co. Somerset, assembled in General Sessions : That Anne Martyn, of Wellington, Co. Somersett, widdowe, being in the howse of the Honourable Alexander Popham with her family, att the Seige thereof by the late Kinges forces,

¹ *Hist. MSS. Commission*, Seventh Report.

sustayned greate losses of goodes and cattle, viz., several kine, one heifer, tenne young cattle, three calves, five colts, a mare and a horse, forty sheepe, five bedds with their furniture, bacon, butter, and cheese, wool, lynnен, corne of all sorts, pewter, brasse, and other moveable goodes, valued in all att the summe of * * * hundred and threescore and fifteen poundes, besides the summe of twenty and two poundes in ready money ; and that her eldest sonne was killed in the said howse by the said late Kynges forces. Signed Rich. Bouell, Alexander Popham, Edw. Popham, John Pyne.'

A field near Drakes Place, now known as Castlefield, but formerly called Battlefield, was probably the scene of some skirmish. The following extract from a letter of Hugh Wolcott, written from Wellington in 1642, shows that before the arrival of Sir Richard Grenville there had been a good deal of trouble in the town. How much this was intensified when a house centrally situated was besieged we may well imagine.

from Wellington, 20th March, 1642.

' . . . It hath pleased God to set a great Destruction amongst us here in our land, both in Church and State, that men, as the Scripture saith, hath bin almost at there wits end, for noe Turkish slavery can be worse than hath bin inflicted over us. We have bin robed and stript of all our goods, both within doores and without, and leade away captive from house and harbour, and like to suffer death ; but prayse God that he hath not given us over to the wills of of our adversari, for then we had bin overwhelmed. Cozen, soe it is we are removed from Venns to Wellington at Micklemas last, and my father and mother doth live in the house that was my uncles, Ch^r Wolcott, and I and my wife doth live with them. . . . If your ffather or you plese to come over to dispose of what is here there may be sales men found ; but Estates doe goe at verie low value that formerly they have bin, for since the troubles did arise not any estate was able to make good the changes that went out of it by a greate deale. One hundred pounds in purse that could be saved to deal over hath bin more worth than 2 hundred pounds per annum. . . . '

Wolcott might have referred to the following exciting incident, which occurred in 1640, when Lieut. Eure, marching from Devon-

shire, rested at Wellington on Sunday ; and absenting himself from church he was put down to be a Papist and brutally murdered, his body being dragged through the streets of the town.

The following account is taken from the State Papers for 1640, where the whole affair is reported as a matter of serious importance, which indeed it was.

July 14, 1640 (letter from Lieut.-Col. Gibson to Edward, Viscount Conway). 'In their march to Wellington, in Somersetshire, his (Gibson's) company were in good order, but resting there all Sunday they began to grumble at Lieutenant Compton Ewre for (being) a Papist, who absenting himself from church, and repairing to them in the evening, all the soldiers fell upon his quarter and pulled down the house, when he and some others, endeavouring to rescue him, were beaten into their own lodgings, and at last they barbarously murdered him for his religion, and dragged him through the streets. He, sending for assistance to the next deputy lieutenants, received none ; only the bailiff and constable gathered some people together, but apprehended none of the mutineers, although they were pointed out to them. The whole company disbanded instantly, and another company of the same regiment coming into the town at that time followed their example, and all went their several ways.'

Other accounts are in existence of this outrage in the town, but the principal facts in all agree.

July 21, 1640. Edward Rossingham to Edward, Viscount Conway (news letter). More damnable disorders are complained of.¹ I pray God send all to a good end. His Majesty being made acquainted of the late disorders of the soldiers at Wellington, and that they had plotted to kill their officers, and then seize upon the King's money, he has since given order no more money shall be issued out to pay the soldiers beforehand ; he will be a fortnight or more hereafter in their debt, now it will be a question whether the soldiers will not disband for want of present pay

¹ Similar disturbances had occurred in other parts of the country.

Then follows a proclamation for bringing to justice the mutineers :—¹

A.D. 1640.—An. 16, Car. I. A Proclamation for the apprehending and due punishing of the late Mutineers at Wellington, in the County of Somerset.

A.D. 1640. Whereas a Company of one hundred and sixty Soldiers, lately pressed in our County of *Devon*, for our Service, being under the conduct of Lieutenant Colonel *Gibson*, did on their March towards the Northern Parts, at the Town of *Wellington*, in our County of *Somerset*, fall into an insolent and desperate Mutiny, in which (among other Outrages) they did most cruelly murder Lieutenant *Compton Eures*, one of their Officers, and in a most barbarous and inhuman manner dragged him through the Streets, and have since disbanded and departed from their commanders, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of the Realm.

Forasmuch, as We now find that our princely Clemency, extended towards some other late offenders in this kind, hath not produced that Conformity and Obedience in our Common Soldiers, which We expected, and that at this time it is necessary that severe and exemplary Punishment should be inflicted on Offenders of this nature, do hereby straightly charge and command all our loving and loyal Subjects to use all possible diligence and endeavour, for the speedy apprehension of all the said one hundred and sixty men, and especially of *John Moor*, of the Parish of *Minmet Episcopi*; *John Wall*, of the Parish of *Wittridge*; *Edward Clarke*, of the Parish of *South Molton*; *Thomas Clarke* and *John Parramore*, of the Parish of *Swynbridge*; *William Shapcot*, of the Parish of *West Anstie*; *Bartholomew Tucker*, of the Parish of *Chittlehampton*; *John Tout*, *Toby Tout*, and *William Tout*, of the Parish of *Minmet Episcopi*; *Edward Lovering* and *William Gregory*, of the Parish of *Lankey*, in the said County of *Devon*, who were principal Movers

¹ *Rymer, Fœdera* xx. p. 425.

and Actors in the said Mutiny and Murder, and to bring the said Parties, and all the rest of the said Mutineers, before our Justices of Peace or other Magistrates, whereby they may be committed to Prison, there to remain until they shall have received their due Trials according to the Law.

And We do further declare That if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall presume to harbour, receive, and comfort the said offenders (knowing them to be of the said company), We shall hold them as Persons guilty of the aforesaid offences, and proceed against them according to Justice. And we will and command that upon the apprehension of any of the said Mutineers and Offenders, advertisement shall be forthwith given unto the Lord-General of our Army, to the end that by his care the evidence may be prepared and sent against the times of their Trial, which We require to be respite until then, that so the Parties guilty may not for want of evidence escape the just Censure and Punishment of the Law, according to the Merits of their Offences.

And for the better execution of our Royal Will and Pleasure herein, We do in more especial manner require and command the Lord Lieutenant of the Counties of *Devon, Somerset, Wilts, Dorset, and Cornwall*, and their Deputies, and all Justices of the Peace, Mayors, and Sheriffs of the said several Counties, to cause Hue and Cry,¹ and Searches to be made in all Places, within the said Several Counties respectively, for the speedy apprehending of all said Mutineers and for their safe Custody until their several Trials, which We have directed shall be done with all convenient speed. And We do further charge and command all Constables, Bailiffs, and Headboroughs, and other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever, That they and every of them do readily obey and

¹ In early English law *Hue and Cry* was one of the recognised processes for arresting culprits. The constable of the town might call upon all the inhabitants to pursue a criminal with horn and voice, and follow the offender to the limits of the parish, where the constable of the next parish would take up the pursuit.

execute all such Warrants and Directions as they shall receive for this our Service, as they tender our high Displeasure and will answer it at their perils.

Given at our Court at *Whitehall*, the four and twentieth day of *July*.

Per ipsum Regem.

Monmouth Rebellion.—Up to the present time all the historians of the Monmouth Rebellion have failed to give any particulars of the part taken by Wellington at that most exciting period. Macaulay, crowded as his pages are with all the minutest details of this stormy time, does not make even a single stray reference to this town throughout his great work.

It is true that Wellington lay off the line of route taken by Monmouth, and there is no evidence at all to suppose that he was ever in the town. Indeed, the evidence points the other way. When, in 1680, Monmouth made his grand progress into the West of England, he went by Chard to Exeter, and did not journey through the town. But still Monmouth could have been no stranger to the majority of Wellingtonians.

Though the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood were staunch Tories, by far the larger number of inhabitants were animated by a Roundhead spirit, and many as Dissenters had suffered so much petty persecution that they were enthusiastic for Monmouth and strongly opposed to Popery.

When the handsome Duke entered Exeter in 1680, five years before his landing at Lyme, the whole country for many miles round had drawn itself up to meet him. Monmouth felt, therefore, that if his cause could succeed anywhere it would in the West, where the yeomen and artisans were all for him. The following instance will show equally the strong Roundhead feeling which existed in the West and the sympathy which was established between Wellington and Taunton.

The Taunton folks were in the habit of setting apart a day of

thanksgiving and rejoicing for the raising of the siege laid against them in the Civil War. In 1683, one Stephen Tymewell, Mayor of Taunton, endeavoured to put a stop to the usual celebration, and in these efforts met with strong opposition. Being at Wellington Fair on May 21, 1683, he was openly insulted, and as his period of office had nearly expired, he pined at the thought of being exposed as a private person to further insults at Taunton or Wellington. 'I have fought,' he said, 'with thousands of the beasts of Ephesus, and overcame them.'¹ A Government informer, writing to Sir Leoline Jenkins in February 1682, says of our forefathers that 'they'll see bloody noses before they'll desert conventicles.'²

Monmouth landed at Lyme on June 11, 1685, and though his arrival came as startling news to most people, there is no doubt that the principal Dissenters in the West were aware of the Duke's movements. It seems as though the news of the expedition was at Wellington sooner than at most places.³ We find that one Wey, drinking at Wellington, told, in his cups, Mr. Cross, the coroner, whom he took to be favourable to his views, that Argyle was in Scotland, and that the Duke would be here before the 25th of May, and that he had not slept for two or three nights for thinking of it. Mr. Cross communicated this information to authorities on June 2. The whole wording of the MSS. is worth giving here, as it has never before been printed.

'News came that Exeter had rays^d their Militia and guarded their gates, and notice being given to the writer of an affidavit, Mr. Cross, the Coroner of the County of Som^{sett}, had made about a fortnight before, agreeing with the contents of the intercepted letter, he forthwith rid to Mr Crosse for the substance and occasion thereof, who told him that upon the 14th of May last he occasionally met with one William Wey, of Combe, St. Nicholas, in Som^{sett}, at a Taverne in Wellington, and, drinkeing a glasse of wine together,

¹ Roberts' *Monmouth*, I., pp. 210, 211.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Harl. MSS. 6845. Axe Papers.*

Mr. Crosse was sayeing that he had been abroad that morning endeavouring to clear himself of words that were say'd to be spoken by him for five yeares before, &c. (which words happened to relate to his office, not the Publick), but Wey apprehended him otherwise, and thought Mr. Crosse a man for his turns (?), and replyed that he hoped that both he and all honest men would be relieved shortly, for that Gye or Gile, or a word sounding like that (for Mr. Crosse had not heard of Argile), was in Scotland with an army, or would be in arms, or words of that import, and that the Duke of Monmouth would be here before the 25th of May, and that the said Wey had not slept in 2 or 3 nights about it. That Mr. Grisely, a Justice of Peace, being then in Towne, He carryed Wey before him, Wey denying his words, it being a discourse on drinking wine, etc. Wey was made to give security to answer it, at the next assizes, and discharg'd for the p'sent.¹

Before Monmouth had been on land twenty-four hours he was at the head of 15,000 men, and his volunteers could not be registered and armed sufficiently fast. The Duke of Albemarle,² who was holding a muster of militia at Exeter, received news of the insurrection through Gregory Alford, Mayor of Lyme. Albemarle, with all speed, made towards the scene of the disturbance, and got as far as Axminster, when some insurgents opposing him, he beat a retreat, and took up his position at Wellington.

Some idea of the excitement caused in the neighbourhood when the news of Albemarle's proximity at Wellington was known may be learnt from Whiting,³ who boldly ventured on the Taunton road on horseback, and, in company with a friend, rode towards Wellington, 'but had not rode above a mile or two, but we met

¹ *Harleian*, 6845.

² This was Christopher, Duke of Albemarle, who must not be confounded with his father, George Monk, who died in 1670. Duke Christopher had formerly been on terms of close intimacy with Monmouth, but was now called upon, as Lord Lieutenant of Devonshire, to do all in his power to oppose him.

³ *Persecution Expos'd*, 1715, p. 142.

two men coming riding a gallop, as fast as their horses could go (which as they past by, I knew one of them), who said, Turn out of the road, the Duke of Albemarle is at hand.'

It is worthy of remark that at the first council of war held by Monmouth at Taunton, the subject discussed was whether they should as a body march towards Wellington, and give battle to Albemarle, or go forward. They decided to march on to Bridgewater. Had the decision of this council been for the alternative, the last battle fought on English ground might well have been that of Wellington or Chilson.

The correspondence which took place between Monmouth at Taunton and Albemarle at Wellington forms an interesting episode in the history of the period. The fourth *Declaration* of Monmouth was also dated from the town. It will be observed that Monmouth observes the regal style in addressing his opponent.

Monmouth's first letter, couched in the most authoritative terms, commands Albemarle 'to cease all hostility against us and all our loving subjects, and immediately repair to our camp.'¹ The same trumpet which delivered this to Albemarle brought back from Wellington the following reply :—

'For James Scott, late Duke of Monmouth,—

'I received your letter, and do not doubt but you would use me kindly if you had me; and since you have given yourself the trouble of invitation, this is to let you know that I never was, nor never will be, a rebel to my lawful King, who is James the Second. If you think I am in the wrong and you in the right, whenever we meet I do not doubt but the justness of my cause shall sufficiently convince you that you had better have lett this rebellion alone, and not have put the nation to so much trouble.'

'ALBEMARLE.'

¹ *Harl. MSS. 7006.*

MONMOUTH'S FOURTH PROCLAMATION.

‘BY THE KING. A PROCLAMATION.

‘Whereas Christopher, Duke of Albemarle, with several other persons, are now in arms at Wellington, in our county of Somerset, and act in hostile manner against us and our authority: We do, therefore, by this, our Royal Proclamation, publish and declare the said Xtopher, Duke of Albemarle, and all such as now joyne and adhere to him, or that shall hereafter assist or abett him, to be rebels and traytors. And we doe hereby authorise and command all our loving subjects to pursue him and them with warr and destruction, untill they have subdued the said rebels.

‘Given at our camp at Taunton, the 21st day of June, 1685, in the first year of our reigne.

‘GOD SAVE THE KING.’

Wade, who was one of Monmouth's principal adherents, enters in his record, ‘This day (Friday, June 19) ye Duke had intelligence of ye Duke of Albemarles having possessed himself of Wellington, a town within 5 miles of Taunton, which caused ye Duke to make some small entrenchments on ye road leading that way, and to put out strong guards.’¹

The Duke of Albemarle left Wellington on June 23, and arriving at Taunton in the evening he sent off Monmouth's fourth proclamation to Lord Sunderland, ‘only for his diversion.’ Albemarle sent also a list to Sunderland of commission officers in Monmouth's camp whose names he had heard. Among them were Colonel Bovet and Captain Bovet.²

On July 2 we find Albemarle has retired back to Exeter, though on July 1, he intimated his intention of marching out of Exeter. The king was agreeable to this, and directed Albemarle to secure the passes and prevent men, provisions, and horses, of

¹ Wade's *Further Information*, Harl. MSS. 6845. ² Roberts' *Monmouth*, Vol. I., pp. 308-9.

which last there was great need, from being carried to the rebels. For our purpose this is valuable as proving to us the state of tumult and disorder the town must have been in, with troops passing to and fro and the more peaceful folk fearful that a collision with the rebels might take place at any moment. To bury their money was the business of all. Many were the stores of treasure then hidden and since found in the pulling down of old houses, &c.

Then came the 6th of July, the day of carnage at Sedgemoor, when many of our fellow-townsmen armed with scythe-blades lashed to poles fought bravely against fearful odds, and many more, it may be feared, soon fell victims to the fire of the enemy. There was no town or village in West Somerset that had not sent up its 'tale of men.'

The novelist Fielding—himself a Somersetshire man—introduces many scenes from his own county into the pages of *Tom Jones*. Not the least interesting chapters in the first and foremost of novels are those which relate the story of the 'Man of the Hill,' which is very likely based upon some tale which Fielding himself heard in his youth,¹ and goes part way to prove that the novelist was well acquainted with the town. The Old Man of the Hill tells in his pitiful narrative how he enlisted on behalf of the Duke of Monmouth, and after doing his best at Sedgemoor, fled with a friend 'near forty miles together on the Exeter road,' and took refuge in a hut, where an old woman took care of them. The old man then meets with misfortune, and gets betrayed into the hands of the King's troops. 'However, fortune at length took pity on me; for as we were got a little beyond Wellington, in a narrow lane, my guards received a false alarm that near fifty of the enemy were at hand, upon which they shifted for themselves, and left me and my betrayer to do the same.' He then made his way across fields, and, avoiding roads, escaped.

Many from Wellington had, no doubt, joined Monmouth as

¹ Fielding was born in 1707. *Tom Jones* was published in 1749.

soon as the news had reached the town. Many more would have done so had not the Royalist troops been stationed in the town, and closely watched the movements of its inhabitants. It is to this fact, indeed, that the apparent apathy of Wellington must be referred. The majority of Monmouth's adherents followed him because he had already made himself a favourite ; others because they believed that Popery was about to ruin the country, and they were resolved to avert what seemed a certain calamity.

These rebels were mistaken in nearly all points of action, but the custom of disputing by force of arms the succession was a very ordinary one, and it was but natural that Monmouth, as a child—illegitimate, it is true—of Charles II., should have claimed the crown. Still less is there reason to wonder that he found supporters.

The Bloody Assize.—Hitherto in the town there had been more talked than seen of the fearful shedding of blood in the neighbourhood. It was reserved now for Wellington to witness a share of the most horrible butcheries in cold blood that have ever disgraced the annals of jurisdiction.

Early in September, 1685, Jeffreys set out on his memorable Western Circuit ; but before we record anything of Jeffreys, there is an incident to be introduced from the atrocities perpetrated by Kirke's 'Lambs.' Colonel Percy Kirke, who had been left in command at Bridgwater after Monmouth had been routed, marched to Taunton with two cartloads of wounded prisoners, many of whom he hanged as soon as he arrived at Taunton, and very few eventually escaped the punishment of death with torture. A Wellingtonian, whose name we have not got, seems to have managed to get off.

A contemporary record reports that 'One of Welinton that was to be hanged there, was saved, supposed by Order of Sir —, and one of Crookern hanged in his stead ; this is true, and so it was at other places ; but 'twere endless to record all

the cruelties exercised by Kirk and Jeffreys after Monmouth's defeat.¹

After visiting Hampshire and Dorsetshire, Jeffreys went to Exeter, and from thence came towards Taunton through Wellington, wreaking his vengeance most severely upon the county that had taken the most active part in the rebellion. The date at which Jeffreys arrived in this town is, as near as can be estimated, the 12th of September, 1685. We are fortunate in being able still to identify the exact site where the three Wellington prisoners—Francis Priest, Philip Bovet, and Robert Read—suffered death; and to this day the cob-walled linhay from which these men were suspended is known as 'Gallows House.' It stands, as most readers well know, in High Street, by the side of the 'White Hart Inn,' and overlooks the garden of Sussex House. On the same site as where the present 'White Hart Inn' now stands, there then stood, as at a much later period, the principal inn of the town, where Jeffreys put up, and from the windows of which he could see the writhings of his wretched victims.

Nor was the martyrdom of these three men the only horror that the town witnessed during that reign of terror—the last few months of 1685. In every town and village where only a few had been hung, quartered bodies were sent, and hung up to public view, filling the atmosphere with sickening malaria. The most graphic narrative of this period tells us that at every spot where two roads met, on every market-place, on the green of every large village which had furnished Monmouth with soldiers, ironed corpses clattering in the wind, or heads and quarters stuck on poles, poisoned the air, and made the traveller sick with horror. In many parishes the peasantry could not assemble in the house of God without seeing the ghastly face of a neighbour grinning at them over the porch.²

Besides Francis Priest, who pleaded guilty to 'levying warr against the Kinge,' there were others of the same family charged

¹ *Western Martyrology.*

² Macaulay, *England*, chap. v.

with a like offence.¹ Thomas Laurence, Willus and Henry Priest also appear in the *Gaol Delivery Rolls*. Besides Robertus Reade there was Willus of the same name. Of the Bovet family many seem to have suffered. Besides Philip, there occur the names of Thomas, Edwardus, Ricus, and Jokes.²

Other familiar names of those who pleaded guilty at these assizes are as follows :—

Jacobus Every (probably of Cothaye), Willus Prowse, Robertus Burridge. Robertus Thatcher pleaded guilty to the charge of 'enterteyning, aydeing, assisting and comforting John Bovett, being a rebell against the King,' and Christopherus Winter for speaking seditious words was sentenced to be placed in the pillory at Wellington. The *Gaol Delivery* sentence runs: *Po. in et super collistrigm apud Wellington.*

The officers and soldiers who accompanied Jeffreys behaved with such tyrannical violence towards those whom they believed were unfriendly to the King that many, feeling conscious of their guilt, passed many weeks in greatest fear, hiding themselves in copses, linhays, and trees.³

Lord Stowell, who lived at Cothelstone, and who was certainly no partisan of Monmouth, was so horrified at the conduct of Jeffreys that he rebuked him. The Judge replied by ordering the execution of Col. Bovet and another outside the gates of Lord Stowell's residence.⁴

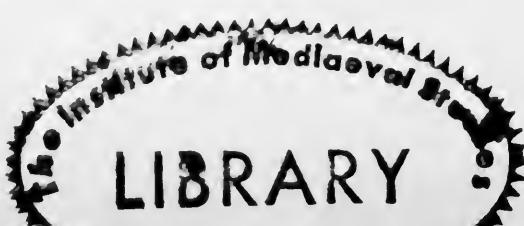
The following story is based upon an incident which transpired immediately after the victory at Sedgemoor. As the family in whose possession the sword now is has been associated with and resident in Wellington [S. Dobree, Esq., J.P.] for several generations, this incident belongs more to the history of this town than elsewhere. After the battle on Kings Sedgemoor, Faversham, with several of his officers, returned to Weston Zoyland, and, entering several houses, ordered

¹ Inderwick, *Monmouth Rebellion*.

² The Christian names are here given in Latin as they appear in the *Gaol Delivery Rolls*.

³ Roberts' *Monmouth*, Vol. II. p. 186.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 219.



refreshments without any ceremony or leave-taking. One of the officers, an ill-bred fellow, went into the family house of the Bridges, which had recently been the headquarters of his general, who, though not a welcome guest, had received all the attentions due to a stranger. The intruder hastened through the great hall to the parlour where the ladies were assembled, and had not recovered from the fright which the sound of the great guns had occasioned. After having made use of some very coarse expressions the armed and cowardly miscreant proceeded to offer a gross insult to the lady of the mansion, when her daughter, Miss Mary Bridge (between eleven and twelve years of age) drew his sword and stabbed him to the heart. She was brought before Colonel Kirke and tried by a court-martial, when the fair heroine was not only honourably acquitted, but also had the sword given to her with an order that it should descend to the future Mary Bridges of the family.¹

Notices of Wellington in the Seventeenth Century.

WELLINGTON ROUNDHEADS.

ACCORDING to Ray² the term 'Wellington Roundheads' was proverbial in the West of England for violent fanatics.

CURIOS PHENOMENON.

In London, on February 13, 16¹⁶/₁₇, a curious meteoric body was seen in the air 'like the appearance of a firebrand wrapped in a red cloak, and shining at both ends. About the same time was seen at Wellington the like sight, viz., the likeness of fire in bigness as big as a child of seven or eight years old, which fell out of the air making a very great noise, and, to the seeing of those who saw it, fell on a house, but did no harm. It was seen by one, Mr. Prouse's man, and divers others, being then going with the constable in a search about nine of the clock at night.'³

¹ Stradling's *Chilton Priory*.

² Ray, *Proverbs*.

³ *Diary of Walter Tonge*, Camden Society, 1848, pp. 31, 32.

HARD TIMES.

In 1630, when victuals were very scarce, and discontent was about to show itself in open rebellion, a Proclamation was issued for remedying this evil, and orders were sent to the Sheriff of Somerset to direct the Justices of the Peace to take a record of prices, and what corn every grower had stowed away. The first report sent in is dated from Wellington, and runs as follows:¹—

‘Wellington.

‘1630, Dec. 3. Justices of Peace for the Division of Milverton and the Four Western Tithings of Kingsbury, in co. Somerset, to Sir Francis Dodington, Sheriff of the same county. There is sufficient plenty of corn in their division for the relief of the inhabitants, and the prices are, wheat 7s. 3d., rye 5s., barley 4s. 4d., beans 4s., peas 3s. 8d., and oats 2s., per Winchester bushel.’

SALE OF TOBACCO, 1632.

Presentment within the Hundred of Milverton of persons thought fit to sell tobacco in Lydeard Episcopi and Wellington.²

DEER AT WELLINGTON.

Popham seems to have had a deer park near the town. In a letter of Viscount Conway we read, ‘Your brother told me he was bringing the deer that were at Wellington to Littlecote, wherein I think he does well, as he will thus have the benefit of them.’³

THE BIRTH OF A FOUL CONSPIRACY.

In 1664 a conspiracy was plotted in Wellington to rob the Exchequer at Taunton. The principal conspirators arrested were Wellington men. Their names were Priest, Roger Card, John Campe, and Hugh Martin.⁴

At the examination of the prisoners Charles Card, tapster at the ‘George Inn,’ Wellington, said he had twice carried money to his

¹ *Calendar of State Papers*, 1630: Green, *The Poor and the Price of Corn*.

² *State Papers*, Domestic, 1632. ³ *Ibid.* 1652, Oct. 14. ⁴ *Ibid.* 1664, Aug. 13.

brother, Roger Card, at Ilchester gaol, but it was money earned by himself.

John Colburn, innkeeper, of Wellington, was examined as to his acquaintance with the prisoners. He said that there had been a collection made in the town to aid the conspirators.

John Camp, cutler, of Wellington, stated that he was asked by Hugh Martin to join with him in robbing the Exchequer at Taunton, but he did not promise to take part. He was told by John Hill, of Wellington, that he and Hugh Martin had taken the money; further, he had seven or eight pounds offered him by Hill, but refused it. The prime movers in this plot seem to have been under the conviction that there would be a rebellion or war before the next assizes, and that, if arrested, they would soon be set free.

WELLINGTON CROSS.

The following is interesting and valuable, being the only reference I have ever found to a cross at Wellington.

‘From thence I went to Wellington; they call it but 5 mile, but it’s a long 7, tho’ the way was pretty good; this is a little market town. Thence to Culimton, 13 mile more, but indeed these were very long miles; ye hostler at Tanton did say tho’ they were reckon’d but 16 miles it really was a good 20 miles, and I am much of that mind. I mostly pass’d through lanes. I entered into Devonshire 5 mile off from Wellington, just on a high ridge of hills w^{ch} discovers a vast prospect on each side full of enclosures and lesser hills, w^{ch} is the description of most part of the West. . . . Culimton is a good little market town, and market cross and another set on stone pillars, such a one was at Wellington, but on brickwork pillars.’¹

TRADESMEN’S TOKENS.

As no copper money was issued from the Mint during the Commonwealth, small tradesmen and others experienced great inconvenience for lack of small change. To meet their necessities

¹ *The Journal of Celia Fiennes*, written in 1695, published 1888, p. 206.

they circulated without authority these tokens, and they passed as current coin until 1672, when farthings were first issued.

The contractions in the following are: *O.* for obverse, and *R.* for reverse. The mark = signifies that what follows is in the central part. A perpendicular stroke | denotes that the inscription is in lines, divided at that point. The initials found on the following coins represent (1) the Christian names of husband and wife, and (2) their surname.¹

1. *O.* Overseers . of . Wellington = Their | Halfe | Peney.
R. For . The . Benefit . Of . The = Poore | 1666.
2. *O.* George . Bicknell = A pair of cropper's shears.
R. Of . Wellington = G. P. B.

The family of Bicknell was connected with the town of Wellington at an early period. Master William Biconyll, or Bicknell, priest, of Wells Cathedral, by his will, dated 3rd Nov., 1448, makes bequests to the church at Wellington, to his brother John, the Vicar, and the poor. The surname of Bicknell is supposed to be derived from the parish of Bickenhall, in the county of Somerset, which was formerly written Bicknell and Bycknell.²

3. *O.* George . Fowler . 1666 = A pair of cropper's shears.
R. Of . Wellington = His | Half | Peny.
4. *O.* Thomas . Marsh = A pair of scales.
R. In . Wellington = T. M. M.
5. *O.* Christopher . Samford = The Grocer's Arms.
R. In . Wellington = C. A. S.

The will of Christopher Sanford, gent., who carried on the business of a grocer in Wellington, was proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Taunton some time in the reign of Charles II.³

6. *O.* Nicholas . Trocke = A woolpack.
R. In . Wellington . 1655 = N. T.
7. *O.* Stephen . Wright . Mercer = A greyhound.
R. In . Wellington . 1668 = His | Half | Peny.

¹ Bidgood, *Somerset Tokens*.

² A. J. Monday.

³ Ibid.

DANIEL DEFOE IN WELLINGTON.

‘With the town of Tiverton we leave the County of Devon, and entering Somersetshire, have really a view of a different country from Devonshire. For at Wellington, the first town we came to in Somersetshire, tho’ partly employed in manufacturing too, we were immediately surrounded with beggars, to such a degree, that we had some difficulty to keep them from under our horses’ heels. I was astonished at such a sight, in a country where the people were generally so full of work ; for in Cornwall, where there are hardly any manufactures and abundance of poor, we never found any like this.

‘Wellington is a low dirty place, and is only remarkable for having been the place of Residence and Burial of the Lord Chief Justice Popham, in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I. They talked much of one Salkeld, who was converted from Popery by King James I. and made Minister of this Place. He called himself, in compliment to the king, the Royal Convert ; who in return complimented him with the title of the learned Salkeld, which, by the bye, reflected no bad compliment on himself, for having converted a learned man.’¹

¹ Defoe, *Tour Through England* (1st Edition, 1724-27), 1769, Vol. ii. p. 18.

PAROCHIAL RECORDS.

Extracts from the Registers—Baptisms—Marriages—Burials—Churchwardens' Accounts—Popham's Charity—James Goddard's Gift—Thomas Rowe's Gift—Richard Hickman's Charity—John Parsons—John Ware—John Perry—Thomas Marsh—John Greenslade, donors.

THE following extracts from the Parish Registers will probably be found entertaining. So many interesting facts in the social history of the town and its people may be learnt therefrom.

It may be well to call attention to one or two items which may be read between the lines in the extracts given in the following pages.

One of the most prominent features is the very frequent recurrence of family names which are still borne in the town. The permanence of surnames is very striking.

Equally conspicuous is the great change in Christian names. The prevalence of Puritanical and other curious names at the close of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries is very marked. Grace, Hope, Prudence, Obedience, Honor, Charity, appear as ordinary female names. Hezekiah, Absalom, Simon, Cornelius, Nathaniel, as men's names.

The most frequently recurring surnames in the earliest registers are the following: Calway, Ralph, Southey, Slade, Woolcott, Cape, Glass, Withyman, Langbridge, Gruay, Tricky, Munday, Westlake, Commons, Lapthorne, Hitchcock, Sharland, Corram, Morrish, Pring, Bowring, Rutter.

The spelling of the names of places is very curious: Bradninch

appears as Bradnage, Nynehead as Nenhead, Runnington as Rawnington, Hemyock as Hemick and Hemeock, Burlescombe as Boliscomb, Langford Budville as Langford Budfill, and a single reference to the little town of Market Lavington near Devizes, the name of that place is spelt Marget lavinton.

Note the several entries of soldiers in the burials about the time of the Monmouth Rebellion, showing that some regiments may have been quartered here. It is possible, however, as an alternative to this, that these soldiers were disbanded men who were wandering as tramps through the country.

The industries of the town are quaintly illustrated by references to 'serg maker,' 'wofer,' 'comer,' and 'commer,' while there are abundance of dyers, 'inkepers,' and 'showmakers.'

When a traveller was buried, he was entered as such. Similarly, a sojourner or foundling. Most touching is the record under date 1683, July 8, 'A child—a traveller,' among the burials. Short and simple as this entry is it seems to carry with it much pathos.

It would seem that our forefathers, Puritanical though they may have been in spirit, did not fail to worship the golden calf. The odd references to the worldly belongings of certain parishioners is worth noting. Thus, 1703, June 30, 'Thomas Marsh, worth £60 per annum,' was interred. And August 25, in the same year, 'Henry Coman, worth £600,' while not far off we read of the burial of 'Richard Norman, pore' (poor). 'Mary, daughter of John Harris, labourer, poor.' Sometimes, but rarely, the word 'Esquire' was attached to the name of a man of wealth or position.

In 1730, and for some time after, a terrible epidemic visited the town and neighbourhood. Whole families appear to have been interred in a few days. In this year (1730) the burials in the hundred of Kingsbury West rose to 413. This was excessive even when compared with two other years, which themselves are high—viz., 1710, 309; 1720, 312. In the hundreds of Milverton and Taunton Dean the death-rate was proportionately high in the

year 1730. It will be noticed that the words 'in woollen' are placed after some of the names of those buried. This was intended to be for the encouragement of the woollen industry, and was in compliance with an act entitled 'An acte for the lessening the importation of linnen from beyond the seas, and the encouragement of the woollen and paper manufactures of the kingdome' (30 Car. II., c. 3). This curious custom may be contrasted with the Jewish antipathy to garments of wool, and their firm belief that no man could expect a resurrection from the dead whose body had been buried in wool.

It is well to observe the great improvement in morals, and the less promiscuous mingling of the sexes, which must distinctly be traced to better house accommodation and the advance of education.

In 1754, 21 marriages took place, and of the 42 men and women who approached the hymeneal altar in that year 30 could not write at all, but made marks or hieroglyphs which may reasonably be compared in shape, &c., to representations of reptiles of the Nile. The other 12 could just write their names. It should be remembered that the ability to write one's own name does not imply any extensive knowledge, and many who had got so far as to be able to sign their name legibly could not write anything else, and had not even received the education of the common dame school.

Fifty years later, in 1804, there were 28 marriages; 32 brides and bridegrooms could write, and 24 still knew not the art of Cadmus. The practice on Sundays of reading out a verse of a hymn at a time was really necessary in days gone by, for with most in a congregation hymn book or no hymn book was the same.

It is very much to be regretted that the early registers of the church are missing, and no trace of them can be discovered.

The earliest volume dates from 1683. It is without a cover, and in many places so rubbed as to be undecipherable.

The Baptisms in this book begin 25 March, 1683, and extend to August, 1723.

The Marriages in the same volume begin 10 April, 1683, and close some time in the year 1721.

The Burials begin 29 March, 1683, and extend to 6 August, 1723.

The second volume has a cover, and has inscribed on the first page, 'This Book was Bought by Cornelius Marsh, the 21st day of May, anno Dom: 1726: and it cost the sume of =o1l.=o7s.=o6d.

'Baptisms, Matrimony, and the Winding Sheet,
As their times do come, Within this book do meet.

'CORNELIUS MARSH.'

In this volume the Baptisms begin 16 August, 1723, and extend to 23 March, 1749.

The Burials begin 6 August, 1723, and extend to 11 March, 1749.

The Marriages begin 3 August, 1723, and extend to 23 March, 1749.

There are in all twenty-three volumes of Registers, fifteen of which are bound in old calf, the other eight are quite modern.

Until 1752 the old style Calendar was in vogue, by which the year commenced with the first of March. It was ordained that the year 1752 should commence with the first of January, and the reformation of the Calendar was thus effected. In the following the dates of the old style have been followed.

BAPTISMS.

1684. May 27. John Fouracre, son of Thomas Fouracre.

Jan. 19. Robert, son of Henry Parsons.

Mar. . Thomas, ye bastard child of Agnes Biss.

1685. May 19. Jane, the daughter of William Stradling and Agnes his wife.

Mar. 31. Christopher, the son of Christop^r Woolcott and Elizabeth his wife.

1686. April 27. Champion, the bastard child of Mary Burges.

1687. April 4. Grace, the daughter of Hannibal Hill and Elinor his wife.

1687. Oct. 9. Nicholas, bastard child of Anne Boyle.

1697. Jan. 4. Elizabeth, y^e bastard child of Mary Norman, widow.

Memorandum, 1700.—That on the third day of February, 1694, William Stone, senior, being, through age, not able to discharge the office of a sexton, Mr. Thomas Skynner being the vicar (to whom according to the antiente custome of the place the choice of a sexton did belong) did elect Cornelius Pynes, senior, sexton in hys place, and Cornelius Pynes dying January first Anno Domini 1699 Mr. Skynner vicar did elect George Colborn to be sexton in hys place.

1688. Sept. 23. Christian, y^e bastard child of the widow Brown.

1696. Jan. 20. Bishop, ffounderling of Wellington.

In 1702 the handwriting changes, and the writer inserts the various occupations of the parents entered.

1702. Mar. 25. John, son of Andrew Gruay, labourer, and Thomazin hys wife.

April 3. John, son of Charles Bennett, comber, and Mary hys wife.

„ 5. George, son of Hugh Parsons, labourer, and Grace hys wife.

„ 7. Edward, son of John Brown, sadler, and Hannah hys wife.

„ 9. Prudence, daughter of William Cooper, weaver, and Prudence hys wife.

May 21. Ann, daughter of Thomas Cookesley, an apothecary, and Hope hys wife.

„ 24. Alexander, son of Alexander Popham, Gent., and Mary hys wife.

July 31. Samuel, son of John Stradling, taylor, and Joane hys wife.

1702. Oct. 23. Alexander, son of John Swain, junior, serge maker, and Hannah hys wife.
 Nov. 8. Elinor, Bastard daughter of Jane Reed.
 „ 23. John, son of Thomas Monday, Rope maker, and Mary hys wife.
 Dec. 1. Robert, son of Francis Biss, a soldier, and Elizabeth hys wife.
 „ 26. James and Phillip, twins, sons of John Rutter, weaver, and Mary hys wife.
 Jan. 3. Margaret, daughter of Bartholomy Calway, a foot soldier, and Anne hys wife.
 „ Robert, son of Robert Southe, and Anne hys wife.
 „ 13. Hugh, son of George Spiller, soap boiler, and Sarah hys wife.
 1703. „ 9. Elizabeth, daughter of John Williams, a stranger, and Hester hys wife.
 Oct. 17. Daniell, son of John J. Lutford, Butcher, and Elizabeth his wife.
 Dec. 27. George, son of George Berry, woofer, and Ann hys wife.
 Jan. 20. William and John, sons of John Norman, Black-smyth, and Elizabeth his wife.
 Feb. 14. Frances, daughter of John Hayne, Showmaker, and Ann —
 1704. May 21. Sillvea, bastard daughter of Joane Bishop.
 1706. Dec. 23. Robert, son of Mary Bull alias fouraker.
 1707. June 8. Samuel, bastard son of Grace Southe.
 1708. Feb. 15. Alexander and Dorothy, ye bastard children of Amy Glass.
 1709. Feb. 5. Robert, ye base child of Amy Roe.
 1716. May 11. Edward and Martha, ye bastard children of Elizabeth Goffe.

1716. June 22. Ann, ye daughter of Mr. John Buncomb and Mary his wife.
 Oct. 6. Thomas Riscomb, the son of Alexander Popham.
 Feb. 17. John, the son of John Burridge, of Came, and Margaret his wife.

1718. May 18. Dorothy, ye daughter of Marmaduke Clatworthy.
 July 27. Abel, ye bastard child of Grace ffouracre.
 Oct. 10. John, son of Mr. Francis Popham and Letitia his wife.

1719. Jan. 2. George, the son of Mr. Francis Popham and Letitia his wife.

1721. May 14. Sarah, ye bastard child of Ann Giles.
 June 5. James, ye bastard child of Mary Giles.
 Dec. 3. Eliz., daughter of Peter Perry, soldier.
 Feb. 9. Matthew, son of Edward Haviland and Mary his wife.

1723. July 3. Francis, son of Mr. Francis Popham and Letitia his wife.

1724. Nov. 1. John, the Bastard sone of Elizabeth Rockwell.
 Feb. 2. Thomas, the sone of Edward Haviland.

1726. Mar. 1. Hannah Mordin, a young woman.
 „ 11. Philip, the son of Philip Lackington.

1728. May 30. Jane, ye daughter of William Gattey.
 June 8. Sarah, ye daughter of Phillip Lackington.
 Sept. 29. Mary Greddie, ye found child.
 June 1. Nathaniel, the son of Nathaniel Stradling.

1731. Aug. 15. Petter, ye son of William Gatty.

1735. „ 12. John, the son of Mr. William Drake and Sarah his wife.

1739. „ 23. Matthew —, ye bastard son of Eliz. Glass.
 Mar. 27. James, son of James Hurly, schoolmaster.

1740. Dec. 25. Henry, the son of Edward Makepeace.

1741. June 7. Hugh, the son of John Cosway.

1741. Feb. 2 . Thomas, y^e bastard son of Faith Gore.

1743. Jan. 6 . William, son of John Horsey.
Mar. 14. Christian, daughter of Rev. Mr Jesse, vicar.
" 28. John, son of James Kerslake.

1744. Jan. 1 . Thomas Moon, aged 21 years.

1745. May 19 . Betty, daughter of Thomas Jones, Sojourner.

1746. April 23. Jane, daughter of James Kerslake.
July 4 . Charles, son of Rev. Mr Jesse, vicar.
Sept. 12. Betty Stone, Bastard child of Betty Jones.
" 26. William, son of William Webb, Sojourner.

1747. June 3 . Thomas, son of Samuel Cornelius, Sojourner.
" 14. Jane, daughter of John Baker, Sojourner.
Nov. 5 . William, son of Edward King "
Mar. 18. Joseph, son of Isaac Tayler "

1748. April 17. Sarah, daughter of Thomas Jones "

1749. Feb. 23 . Simon, son of Colley Terry "
" 28 . Hugh, Bastard son of Mary Shurford, aged 23 weeks.

1750. April 15. John Parsons, Bastard son of Margaret Chester.
June 15. Frances, daughter of Mr William Procter-Thomas.

1752. May 26 . John, son of Mr Richard Bovett.
Nov. 8 . Charles, son of the widow Lackington, 13 years old.

1754. Mar. 1 . Thomas, son of Mr Richard Bovett.
April 10. Richard, Bastard son of Judeth Lackington.
Oct. 28 . William Knight, son of Robert Burt.
Dec. 27 . William, son of William Procter Thomas and
Frances his wife, was born Thursday, the 21st
of November, 1754; and Baptized Friday, the
27th Day of December, 1754.

1755. Sept. 8 . William, son of Sarah Hodges, a Traveller.

1756. July 30 . Jane, daughter of Mr W^m Procter Thomas.

1760. April 11. Frances, daughter of Mr W^m Procter Thomas.

1763. May 5 . George, son of Christopher Lackington.

1764. " 10 . John, son of Roger Kerslake.

1764. Sept. 28. Ann, daughter of William Oland and Grace his wife.

1766. June 22. Miriam, daughter of Christopher Lackington and Miriam his wife.

1768. April 10. Joanna Timewell, bastard child of Ursula Ralph.

Nov. 18. Hannah, daughter of Thomas Causway and Hannah his wife.

1770. July 30. Sophia, daughter of Herbert Sawyer, Esq., and Susanna his wife.

Dec. 30. Judith, daughter of Phillip and Mary Lackington.

1771. „ 20. George, son of Herbert Sawyer, Esq., and Susanna his wife.

1772. Mar. 15. John, son of John and Hannah Causway.

Aug. 16. Mary, daughter of Philip and Mary Lackington.

1774. May 22. Ann, daughter of Thomas Causway and Hannah his wife.

1775. Jan. 16. Robert, son of Robert Cadbury and Mary his wife.

1776. Mar. 24. Christopher, son of Philip Lackington and Mary his wife.

„ „ . Jane, daughter of Philip Lackington and Mary his wife.

1778. Sept. 14. Robert Kerslake, son of Mr. Cornelius Marsh and Ann his wife.

1783. Dec. 25. William, son of John and Betty Mogford.

1786. „ 25. Betty, daughter of John and Elizabeth Mogford.

1787. Oct. 20. Henry, son of Charles Hope, Esq., and his wife, was born May 10, 1787, and Privately Baptized on June 7, 1787.

1791. Sept. 28. Diana, born 8th May, 1784.

„ „ Mary, born 26th Nov. 1786

„ „ Susannah Sealy, born June 16, 1789

„ „ Stephen Franklin, born 16 June, 1790

1793. Aug. 25. Mary Ann, daughter of John Cosway and Sarah his wife.

Sons and daughters of Franklin
Sealy Bridge,
Surgeon, and
Mary his wife.

1794. Aug. 24. Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Lackington and Mary his wife.

1799. Jan. 17. John, son of Revd Robert Jarratt, vicar, and Margaret his wife, late M. Hey, Spr.

May 3. Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Corner and Ann his wife, fm the Parish of Culmstock.

1800. Mar. 16. Ann, daughter of Samuel Brooks, Bookseller, and Ann his wife, late A. Sparke, Spinster.

Aug. 24. John, son of John Milton and Susanna his wife.

1802. May 9. Mary, daughter of Henry Cottell and Lydia his wife.

„ „ . William, son of Henry Cottell and Lydia his wife.

1804. Oct. 7. Thomas, bastard son of Sarah Lackington.

1808. April 12. Adriana Dewindt, daughter of William Maynard Mills, Gent., and Elizabeth his wife, late E. Willisford, Spinster.

1809. Jan. 27. Maria, daughter of Philip Cosway and Ann his wife.

MARRIAGES.

1692. June 14. Thomas Gifford, of Wellington, and Ann Norish, of Collmstock.

1699. Dec. 26. Edward Bourne and Dorothy Pyle.

1704. Dec. 2. ffrancis Yandell, of Chiptabell, and Catherine Coward.

1706. April 15. John Lane, souldier, and Mrs. Hutchins.

1708. Aug. 5. Hugh Stradling and Grace Wood.

1711. Sept. 28. John Mapledorum and Elizabeth Winser, both of West Buckland.

1715. Sept. 29. William Rockwell and Mary Appledore, both of this parish.

1722. July . Will. Gatty, of St. Edmond in the City of Exon in Cond. Devon, and Martha Goff, of this parish.

1722. Sept. 17. Humphrey Stradling and Mary Burnett.

1725. May 16. Thomas Wroth and Margaret Dowering, both of this Parish.

1726. July 21. Philip Lackington and Eliz. Howe, both of this Parish.

1728. March 6. Joseph Blackmore, of the Parish of Cley Hidon, Devon, and Sarah Lackington, of this Parish.

1729. Aug. 29. Mr John Kerslake, of Holcomb Rogus, and Mrs. Honor Thomas, of this p'ish.

1730. Feb. 15. William Cosway and Eliz. Baker, both this p'ish.

1739. Sept. 19. James Kerslake, sojourner, and Mary Manley, of the parish of West Buckland.

1742. Oct. 21. William Stradling, of this parish, and Ann Watch, of the Parish of Taunton.

1743. Mar. . [Many entries of soldiers being in the town.]

1744. May 16. John Greenslade, of this Parish, and Jane Wescott, Indweller in this Parish.

1745. July 15. George Lackington, of Langford Butfield, and Sarah Lapthorne, of this Parish.

1746. June 9. George Lackington and Joan Trott, both of this parish.

Oct. 30. William Procter - Thomas, of this Parish, and Frances Gunston, of Bishops Hull.

1748. [Entries of marriages between several soldiers and 'sojourners.']}

1749. Dec. 18. Richard Bovet and Joan Thomas, both of this Parish.

1751. June 26. Robert Day and Mary Lippincott, both of this parish.

1752. Dec. 24. William Coram and Elizabeth Lippincott, both of this parish.

1756. May 30. Richard Kerslake and Sarah Hawkins, of this parish.

1760. June 15. John Deane and Ann Cope.

1761. March 7. William Wall and Mary Lackington.
Aug. 17. Bishop Hartnell and Mag. Lackington.
Dec. 5. John Morrice and Mary Lippincott.

1763. April 22. William Oland and Grace Twose.

1768. June 16. Thomas Cawsway and Hannah Styling.

1769. Mar. 28. Thomas Haddon and Elizabeth Zelly.
Sept. 5. Richard Bovet and Sarah Knight.

1770. June 5. John Holmes and Christian Jesse.

1773. Oct. 18. Robert Cadbury and Mary Cape.
Dec. 26. William Wood and Judith Lackington.

1774. April 4. Richard Perrett and Honour Lackington.

1779. June 7. William Mogford and Betty Scott.

1782. Jan. 21. Thomas Elworthy and Hannah Coles.
Oct. 10. Thomas Doram, otherwise Mapledoram, and Mary Coram, of this Parish.

1783. July 8. Richard Horsey and Anna Day.

1784. Feb. 8. John Rice, a sojourner, and Mary Lackington.

1788. Jan. 25. James Handford Farthing, of the Middle Temple,
London, Bachelor, and Elizabeth Govett, of the
Parish of Wellington, in the County of Somerset, Spinster.

1790. Nov. 15. John Bovet, a sojourner in this Parish, widower,
and Elizabeth Wilkins, a sojourner in this
Parish, widow.

1792. May 7. John Cosway, a sojourner in this Parish, Bachelor,
and Sarah Cornelius, of this Parish, Spinster.

1796. July 18. Thomas Clarke, Bachelor, and Philippa Cosway,
of this Parish, Spinster.

1799. Nov. 25. Robert Norman, of this Parish, Bachelor, and
Flet Kerslake, of this Parish, Spinster.

BURIALS.

1683. July 8 . a child ——— a traveller.
 March 3. a man known by the name of Jenkins.

1685. April 11. Elizabeth, late wif of Mr John Perry of Perry, was buried.

1688. Dec. 18. James Dowle, vicar of Wellington.
 Nov. 7 . Martha Bovett.

1689. June 11. a soldier.

1703. June 30. Thomas Marsh, worth 60*l.* per annum.
 Aug. 24. John, son of John Hodge, cobler.
 „ 25 . Henry Coman, worth 60*l.*
 Jan. 30 . Richard Norman, pore.
 „ „ . Joane, wife of Thomas Hill, Almsman.
 Feb. 28 . Mary, wife of William Bowring, Innkeeper.

1704. May 4 . Mary, daughter of John Harris, Labourer, poor.
 Oct. 16. John Harding, a soulger.
 „ 20 . Edward Rogers, alias Withyman, showmaker.
 Nov. 7 . Susannah, wife of John Hill, Inkeper.

1705. April 11. ffortunates, son of John Ellis, officer of Excise, and Grace (his wife).
 April 16. Jane, wife of Henry Philips, Inkeper.

1706. May 19 . John, son of Henry Parsons, a draper.
 Jan. 19 . John, son of John Norman, Blacksmith.
 „ 24 . Mary, the daughter of William Bennett, in woollen.
 Grace, the daughter of J^{no} Hunt, in woollen.
 Ursula, the daughter of Joseph Winter, in woollen.

March 7. Valentine Caswell, in woollen.

1707. April 18. William Bussel, in woollen only.
 Aug. 9 . Mary Dansim, in woollen.

1708. Feb. 20 . Alexander and Dorothy, ye base children of Amy Glass.

1725. Jan. 9 . Elizabeth Monday, the found child.
 1726. Feb. 10 . John Colbourn, sexton.
 1729. May 30 . Alexander, son of Francis Popham.
 Dec. . [Three soldiers were buried within a day or so of
 one another.]
 1730. June 24 . Margaret, the wife of Mr. Humphrey Marsh.
 " , . Charles and Margaret, son and daughter of Mr.
 Humphrey Marsh.
 " 30 . Mr. Cornelius Marsh.
 1731. June 13 . Sarah, ye daughter of Christopher Pinney.
 " 30 . Hannah, ye daughter of Christopher Pinney.
 July 18 . Mary, ye wife of Christopher Hill.
 " 30 . Alexander, ye son of Christopher Hill.
 " 30 . Mary, ye daughter of Christopher Hill.
 Sept. 26 . Sarah, ye daughter of Phillip Lackington.
 Oct. 31 . Dorothy, ye daughter of John Pinney.
 " 27 . Mary, ye daughter of Peter Reed.
 Dec. 5 . Peter, ye son of Peter Reed.
 " 26 . John Carter and Margret his wife.
 " 12 . Anstiss, ye wife of Thomas Woodford.
 Jan. 29 . Thomas Woodford.
 1732. March 5 . Mary, the daughter of Phillip Lackington.
 Feb. 25 . Joane, ye daughter of William Gatty.
 1733. Jan. 26 . Thomas, ye son of Thomas Wroth.
 1734. Aug. 18 . Peter, ye son of William Gatty.
 Dec. 17 . Thomas, ye son of Thomas Wroth.
 1735. March 3 . Letitia, wife of Mr. Francis Popham.
 1738. June 16 . Mr. John Hawes (vicar).
 Mar. 21 . Mr. John Cosway.
 1739. June 3 . Thomas, the son of Philip Lackington.
 Nov. 18 . Thomas Mutton, foundling.
 1742. " 23 . Francis Popham.¹

¹ The foregoing entries point to a very sweeping epidemic.

1743. Jan. 25. Robert Oland.
 Mar. 11. William Drake, attorney.

1744. June 4. John Kidner of Langford Butfield.
 ,, 5. William Colbourne, church clerk.

1748. June 22. Jane, daughter of James Kerslake.
 Nov. 5. John —— Cockram, Bastard son of Hannah Winter.

1755. Jan. 27. William, son of Mr. William Procter Thomas.

1756. June 23. Obedience, wife of Thomas Wood.

1757. Feb. 28. John, son of M^r Richard Bovet.
 Nov. 22. Rev. M^r John Dossie, vicar of Ninehead.
 Dec. 17. Richard Shuring, a sailor.

1758. Jan. 22. Martha, wife of Mr. William Gatty.
 Feb. 15. William, son of Mr. William Procter Thomas.
 Sept. 12. Joan, wife of Mr. Richard Bovet.

1763. July 1. Sarah Cawsey.

1765. July 26. Elizabeth, base child of Jane Webber.
 Oct. 4. Edward Jesse.
 Jan. 7. Mary Jesse.

1770. Sept. 2. George, son of Christopher and Miriam Lackington.
 ,, 24. John, son of Thomas and Hannah Causway.

1773. Mar. 3. Thomasin, wife of Robert Cadbury.

1774. Mar. 20. Richard, son of Richard Corner and Elizabeth his wife.

1775. Mar. 31. Samuel Haddon.
 April 21. Maria, Base child of Margaret Slade.

1778. Mar. 11. John Farthing.

1779. Mar. 10. Robert Hoyle from London.
 Feb. 12. Sarah Lackington, widow.
 April 13. Robert Cadbury.

1780. Mar. 24. Thomas Marsh, Esquire.

1781. Mar. 16. Lucy, wife of Rev. William Jesse.
 Dec. 16. Hannah, daughter of Philip and Mary Lackington.

1782. June 9. William Shorland, sexton.

1783. July 20. Robert, son of Philip and Mary Lackington.

1785. April 22. Christopher, son of William and Sarah Lackington (Workhouse).

1791. Feb. 4. Rev. William Jesse, clerk, vicar of this parish.

1794. Feb. 12. Louisa Jane, daughter of Herbert Sawyer, Esq., Vice Admiral, and Ann Susannah his wife.

July 4. William Oland, yeoman.

1797. May 16. Mary, daughter of Rev. Thomas Bovet and Frances his wife.

1789. July 18. Rev. Dr. Bovet.

1800. Dec. 14. Robert Were, aged 51 years.

[There appears now to have been an epidemic for two or three years. In 1801, 70 were buried; in 1802, 40; in 1803, 32. In 1802, the burials in woollen again commence, and a column is headed, 'Affidavit for burying in woollen.' This ceases in 1803.]

1807. Sept. 5. Richard Bovet, surgeon, aged 90 years.

1810. Feb. 28. Elizabeth Bovett, widow.

1812. July 1. Philip Lackington, a married man, aged 72 years.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

THESE mouldering old records comprise the most copious stores for ascertaining the social condition of the people, and the transitions of popular habits and customs; and—what is of great value—everything is stated with impartiality.

The Churchwardens' Accounts, of which the following extracts form a representative selection, are in the possession of the present Overseers. For many years they were in the late Mr. Frederick White's custody, and at his death there was some probability of their being lost sight of. The volume has now been strongly bound in half calf, and is in safe keeping. I venture to express the opinion that this old record, though it does not go back as far as it ought, or as far as we wish, contains the most readable contribution to the

history of the town. It is a pity that the whole volume has not been published entire, or with such omissions only as would prevent too much repetition or sameness. I have, however, carefully gone through each page, and printed all the principal and most interesting items.

No idea of the social condition of the town two hundred years ago can be obtained so accurate as that which may be read between the lines in these disbursements. The period here illustrated is one immediately subsequent to a time unsurpassed for interest in the history of the town, when the inhabitants were subsiding into peaceful and industrial ways. The writing is very fair, and easily legible after a little practice. In every case when a date appears in the original it is given here. The spelling of the original has been carefully followed.

Assessments.

1686.	£	s.	d.
Geo. Cockram for the Swan ...	9	...	4 6
Geo. Cockram for the George	4	...	2 0
Mr. Richard Berry ...	11	...	5 6
& for the Squirrell ...	3	...	1 6
& for his Bro. Geo. est.	1	...	6
Chris. Sanford	4	...	2 0
Eliz. Pyle	11	...	5 6

*The Disbursements of John Perry and John Norman, Churchwardens
in the year of our Lord God, 1686.*

Paid for ringing St. George's Day ¹ ...	...	...	0 15 0
Paid for bread and meat the 5 th of November...			11 10
Paid the hospetall for the whole yeare ² ...	...	...	3 17 8
Pd unto 2 yeomen ...	...	...	6

¹ Bell-ringing was formerly a great amusement in the country, and the allusions to it are frequent. Many uses to which the church bells were put have now passed into disuse. St. George's Day was observed with considerable ceremony, and fashionable people wore blue coats on that day.

² Popham's Almshouses.

Pd Thomas Munday for a Belrope 5/4.

Pd to 6 pasingers 1/-

Paid 2 men that rec'd great lose by fier 6d.

Pd 2 Seamen 6d.

Pd 14 seamen 6d.

Paid to a travelling woman 4d.

For hay to make mortar 4d.

Paid to a man y^{tt} had sufferd shipwrak 6d.

Paid 2 men their wives and children yth rec'd great lose by fier 1/2.

Paid for Timber for the stocks 4/-

Paid for Beare the 5th of November¹ 1/4/3.

Paid for wood and dressing the meat 1/-

[Here are many entries of 'lose by fier' which probably have reference to Sedgemoor refugees.]

Paid to James Chambers for making the Stocks 2/-

Paid for a Lock for ye Stocks 8d.

Paid for mending the surplis 1/1.

Paid Will: Stone for keeping the Bells and Clocke 12/-

Paid Tho: Marsh for oyle for y^e bells 1/3.

Paid Thomas Crokam for worke about the Railes and work about the Church and Church house² 18/6.

Paid James Chambers for a frame to hang up the paper about mariges 1/-

Paid for meate St Georges Day 5/-

For writting the Rates and this Account and the parchment Role 10/-

Paid for wine for Mr. Beck for the Sacrament at Christmas 9/6.

Paid to a sick soldgier 6d.

¹ The importance of the Guy Fawkes celebration may be inferred from the fact that the charges were met out of public money. In this year (1686) the greatest zeal was manifested against popery consequent upon the attempts of James II. to establish it.

² These church-houses at one time existed in almost every parish, and were used for the village club or guild. They were not ordinary dwelling-houses, but had in them a hall (where the ale feasts were held), a kitchen for cooking, and rooms in which to brew and store beer.—*Athenaeum*, July 19th and Aug. 2nd, 1884.

Paid for a Comon prayer Booake 8/6.

Paid Will Stone for Ringing the Curffy Bell¹ 10/-

[Here are many entries of 6d. paid to passengers, seamen, and soldiers.]

Rec'd of John Perry for the breaking of the Grounde for his sonn John 6/8.

1687.

Sir Francis Popham rated at £225.

Paid unto Mr. Dowle² for 1 booke 1/6.

Paid for drawing the Leed [lead] up and downe from the Church to the Casting-house 5/-

Pd for ringing the 6th of february 12/6.

For meate the same day³ 8/-

Pd Will: Stone for beare when they sett up the Lader and when they took it downe and took the Leed downe 6/-

Pd Will: Stone more for beare when the Leed was wayed and drawne up and for the worke men when it was Layed 7/6.

Pd unto Thomas Buller for washing the Church Lining 3/-

[Here are many entries respecting repairs done to the church.]

Pd for a Locke for the Tower Dore 3/-

Pd for 2 duble Kayes 6d.

Pd for making the 4th Bell claper 1/7/0.

For a staple for the church gate 3d.

1688.

Laid out toward the Chanselars diner 3/- /-

pd for Ringing the 29th May⁴ 5/-

¹ This is the only actual record that we have of the venerable Curfew Bell being rung in Wellington. It is interesting to find the custom observed so late, for, though the Curfew Bell was continued to be rung down to the seventeenth century and later, the obligation to extinguish fires had been long since abandoned.

² Mr. Dowle was vicar.

³ Accession Day, James II.

⁴ The anniversary of the restoration of Charles II. The wearing of the oak on May 29th is in commemoration of that monarch's escape after the Battle of Worcester.

pd for Killing of a fox 1/-
 pd for Killing of a hedghogg 4d.
 pd the Ringers the thanksgiving day¹ 14/-
 pd 5 passengers 1/3.
 pd a sickle souldier 3d.
 pd for killing of a fitcholl² and a hedgehog 8d.
 pd for vitualls the 5th November 5/-
 pd for Ringing for the younge prince 12/-
 pd the Ringers the day that the King was proclaymed 12/-
 pd for Ringing when the King was Crowned 16/-

1689.

paid Thomas Munday for 5 Bell Ropes of which two of them was in
 the old wardens Tyme and paid for one Greate Rope to pull up
 the bells 2/- /-
 pd to 1 man and woman that com out of Ireland 6d.
 pd to 1 man and woman that was burnt out of their dwelling by
 fier 6d.
 pd unto 3 seamen going to Darkmouth 1/-
 pd to 1 sick souldier belongs to Collonell Luterells Reidgment 6d.
 pd 2 souldiers that come from Garnsey 8d.
 pd to 1 souldier that had lost his arme 3d.
 pd to 2 Iresh men 6d.
 pd to a Hollander that come from Plymouth 4d.
 paid for killing 2 martins 2/-
 pd for the High Rent for the Church House 1/-
 pd unto the Ringers the day that the King and Queen was crowned
 11/-
 pd Mr. Marsh for oyle for the bells for this yeare and the last yeare 3/-
 pd for 1 skin of parchment for to write the Register 1/-

¹ Query Harvest Thanksgiving.

² This is a curious local name for a polecat. Although 'fitch' is common, no glossary that I have consulted gives the above form.

1690.

p^d the Ringers when Dublen was taken 5/-

p^d when the King returned from Bristoll 3/-

p^d the Ringers the Day of Rejoyseing¹ 4/6.

p^d for briead for the Communions 4d.

p^d Will Stone for 15 Dayes woorke and for beeare 15/7.

p^d for Ringing when the Report was that Muns² had routed the
beseegers 3/-

p^d for Ringing the Coronation Day 4/4.

[In 1690 a large number of passengers, seamen, and soldiers had
charity.]

p^d Robert Kerslake for 705 ffoot of boord for the church house
4/11/6.

p^d for 700 of Brickes 14/-

1691.

Paid John Bennett and William Jester about ye schoolhouse 8/-

p^d for Ringing and for coming home of the King from Holland 3/10.

p^d unto 8 poor passengers with pass from france 1/3.

p^d the Ringers when Lymberick was taken³ 8/4.

p^d ye Ringers for ye good news which came from ye seas 4/6.

p^d for quartering 6 seamen 2/8.

p^d for Ringing ye day of Humilit. 8/-

p^d forquartering a sick souldier w^{ch} was discharged from his captaine 6d.

p^d for a prayer booke for ye fast day 1/-

p^d unto Mr Williams for swearing of us when wee came into our
office 2-

p^d unto John Templer as by his bill appeareth for whiteing and
coulering ye church and for new Laying of ye church poarch
4/6/0.

¹ A day set apart probably to commemorate the Battle of the Boyne and the defeat of James II.

² Evidently referring to the Siege of Mons, of which an erroneous report was at first current apparently.

³ October 1, 1691.

p^d unto Thomas Chester for making ye skreen for mending the seats
and Reghting y^e Belfry door 1/11/0.

P^d Will Stone for Ringing for the good news of our victory at
sea¹ 15/-

1693.

June 16 . Paid unto William Clarke the present Churchwarden the
sume of five pounds which was given to the poore by
Mr. John Perry Deceased.
paid for a diner beer sider and other necessarys (!) at
the Visitation 1/14/0.

May 8 . p^d a pasenger Gooing to the Bath 1^d.

„ 17 . p^d Mr. Berry's boy for a hedgehog 3^d.

„ 21 . p^d John Tempeler for stoping of some holes in the old
chancell 8^d.

July 30 . paid to 26 seamen taken by the ffrench 4/2.

[Numbers of soldiers from Ireland and elsewhere
here receive charity.]

Oct. 25 . p^d 3 seamen gooing to Chattam and for theire quarters
10^d.

Nov. 2 . p^d the Ringers when King William was safely arrived
home againe² 5/6.

Nov. 7 . p^d Thomas Chester for mending of the north dore of
the church, & for oaken planke 1/5.

Dec. 26 . p^d a maimed souldier going to the hospitall 2^d.

Mar. 14 . p^d a poor Iresh man 3^d.

„ 28 . p^d for Charcole to heate Irons 10^d.

April 3 . p^d for mending the surplice 6^d.

„ 10 . p^d Thomas Chester for putting in the rules of the church
yeard and mending the church frame 3/-

¹ Battle of La Hogue, May 19, 1692.

² After the defeat of Landen, July 19, 1693, William arrived in England on the last day
of October, but the news would not reach Wellington at once.

1694.

James Gifford 3 Cupps £2 $\frac{1}{2}$... 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.¹
 pd Geo. Colbron & Mrs. Jane Thomas' man for 2 Stotes 8d.
 pd for a dinner and beare and bread and dresing the 5th of November 2/2/6.
 pd for Ringing when his matie came from flanders² 5/-
 pd a maimed souldier 6d.
 pd to Mr. Selley for a book for the Alltering the prayers upon the Death of the Queenes matie 1/-
 pd Will Tymewell for Righting of the Lockes About the church 1/6.
 pd to fouer sick seamen 1/3.
 pd for Toleing the bell when the Queenes matie was Buried³ 5/-
 pd to an Ireshman and his family taken by the french 1/-
 pd for Ringing the 11th April 5/-
 pd James Bryant for worke aboute the bells 10/4.
 pd for breade and wine for 4 Sacraments 19/6.
 pd for 8000 of 3d. nailes 1/-/
 pd Will ffrankland for Lookeing after the fier in the church house chemney 1/-
 pd Will Hitchcocke for 2 stotes 8d.
 Recd of James Gifford for breaking the ground in the Church 6/8.
 paid for a Burriell cloth 2/6/0.
 paid for makeing and for Lace and ye letters 5/11.
 paid for the Act against Swearers 6d.
 pd W^m Millers maide for 1 hedge hogg 3d.

1696.

paid unto 1 seaboay 2d.

Expenses in rideing at Wells to have the church rate signed and for horse hire, 11/-

¹ James Gifford kept the 'Three Cups' Inn, and was rated at £2 10s.² William had been absent six months. He returned on the 9th of November, 1694.³ The Queen died of smallpox, Dec. 27, 1694.

1698.

paid for helping downe the church ladder when the George (inn) chimney was on fire and bringin' it back againe 6d.

paid for plush for mending the pulpit cloth 1/2.

paid John Burtt for Rebuilding of the church house according to contract 13/-

[Foxdowne Hill, Millway Close, Peashays & Burtts are places named occasionally here.]

pd to 11 pasingers comeing from turkey 11d.

pd for 1 yd & $\frac{1}{4}$ of silke fringe for ye disk 3/6.

pd for one yd of bays 10d.

pd for half a bushel of lime to wash ye church 8d.

pd for ye Lent of a horse to carry a woman to tantton 1/6.

pd to a gardsman to go to ye Justis with her 6d.

pd for a woman's quarters to (two) nights 8d.

1699.

pd for killing of 1 ffoxe 1/-

pd Jamis Chambers for 2 Joyne stooles and a table board to pay the poor upon 14/-

paid for a warr^t against Sabbath breakers 1/-

1700.

paid the clarke of this parrish a quars sallary 1/-

paid for killing a stoate to Hen: Woods boy 3d.

paid for killing another stoate to Rob^t ffouraker 3d.

paid Hen: Wood for Killing of a Marting 1/-

paid for 2000 of Breeks for the churchwall 2/10/0.

paid ould haye to plaister the porche 4d.

paid for 2 quires of paper to make a Register for the Birthes and burialls 1/4.

paid ould chester for pinns to hang up hatts in the church 4/2.

1701.

paid for Beer when the churchwardens was chosen 1/-

paid for 7 yds of Broad canvas for the 10 Comandements 10/6.

paid Mr. Willis the painter for drawing the 10 Comandm^{ts} and the figure of Moses and Arone with some sentences in the Churchpource 2/11/6.

1706.

paid Thomas Wroth for making the new church clock, with the ould worke allowed him 9/0/0.

1728.

paid for a Warrant for ye Quakers that refus'd to pay their rates 1/-

George Colborne's bill Delivered 19th Apr, 1676.¹
Wellington.

It ^m for James Chappells horse for weeks Journey	& to broadhembury	£	s.	d.
		0	4	0
For the horse meat	0	1	0
for the cloath the cheese was rapt in						0	0	8
pay ^d at the Swan for Meichemas	0	2	9
& pay ^d for ladye day Court	0	3	3
pay ^d ye man more	0	5	0
						0	16	8

Sent by Mr. Bassett in a new purce 4 5 0
His bill comes to 00 16 8
which allows him for his paynes in his iourney to Wells, & 2d.
for a purse.

Wellington, 1677.

George Colborne's Bill of Expenses. £ s. d.

for horse hire and expenses there to give notice of								
the death of John Thomas	...	...	...	...	...	00	4	6
for his paynes in that journey	...	...	...	...	...	00	3	0
for his journey to Broadhembury with a letter to								
Mr. Serle	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	0
Expenses ab ^t Court Keepinge	...	...	...	...	...	00	11	0
laid out for a purse	...	...	...	...	...	00	00	2

¹ Serel MSS

THE CHARITIES OF WELLINGTON.¹

*Popham's Charity.*²—A house is bequeathed to twelve poor or impotent people, six of them to be men, and the most discreet to be president over them; and six other to be women, and the most modest and discreet of them to be matron of the women; and the same president and matron to be always appointed by such of his name as should enjoy the mansion house in Wellington; and for the education of two poor men's children, fatherless and motherless, not being base born, until such time as they should be nine years old, or bound apprentice; and if such hospital should not be erected and founded by him in his lifetime, he directed that his wife, his son and heir, Sir Francis Popham, Knight, and James Clarke, of the Middle Temple, London, esquire, or the survivor of them, should build the same hospital, with a garden, or little plot adjoining thereto, between the house and the highway in that place, within the borough of Wellington aforesaid, which he had thereunto assigned, with two several and competent rooms for the same poor people, and a house of correction or working-house in the midst of that, according to the plan which he had made, and which Mr. Prowse, of Wellington, then had in his custody; and he did thereby ordain that the same hospital should be established by them, or the survivors or survivor of them, to have continuance for ever, according to the statute in that behalf then lately made; and that the governors and poor people thereof should be founded and incorporated by the name of the governors and poor people of the hospital of Sir John Popham, Knight, in Wellington; and that the said hospital should have assured unto it some lands, to be provided in the counties of Somerset and Devon, or in one of them, to be value of 50*l.* by the year; and until the same should be established and assured, according to the true meaning therein, which was, that the overseers of his said will, being six in number, should be established the first

¹ Charity Comm. Blue Books, 1843.

² There is in the British Museum (Lansdowne MSS. 77, f. 139) a fragment dated 16 July, 1594. 'A humble petition of Sr John Popham Knighte for the erection of two Hospitalls in Wellington in ye countie of Somerset.' It does not appear that more than one almshouse was ever erected by Popham. In the MSS. referred to the object of the charity does not differ from that set forth by the Charity Commissioners' Report, 1843.

governors thereof, and if any of the said six governors should happen to die, then the surviving governors, or most of them, should choose one other or more governors in the place of them so dying, for that he would have always six governors thereof, and to be chosen for ever after out of some of the houses of the Pophams; then of Huntsworth, of the heirs of the house of the Rogers; then of Cannington, of the heirs of the Malletts; then of Enmer, of the heirs of the Warres; then of Hestercombe, of the heirs of the Halswells; then of Hallsway, of the heirs of Simes; then of Pawnsford, or of some other gentlemans houses within ten miles of Wellington aforesaid, and if the same should not be founded and established in his lifetime, then he willed and devised to his overseers, and to their heirs, for the performance of his said will in that behalf; in the meantime, and until it should be founded and established with lands as aforesaid, one annual rent of 50/. a year, out of all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to be paid unto them at the usual feasts, with power to distrain for the same; and he did thereby also will that the children should be educated in the said house with the said woman that should, from time to time, be matron thereof, and that the same president should have the overseeing and ordering all the male kind that should be committed to the said house of correction, and the matron of all the female kind, and he willed that the governors of the said house should bestow 1s. 6d. weekly, for ever, in money, upon each of the said presidents and matron, and to each of the residue of the same poor people 1s. weekly; and 8d. weekly upon each of the said children, until they should be of the age aforesaid, or placed with some master or mistress, as apprentices, for ten years at least, in husbandry; and every year besides, to each of the said president and matron, a gown of frize, price not exceeding 9s., and to each of the rest a gown of frize, not exceeding the price of 6s., and to every of the said poor, one pair of shoes, and one shirt for each man and a smock for each woman, such as should be fit for them; and the apparel in all, for the president and matron, not to exceed the value of 13s. 4d. by the year, and for each of the rest not to exceed 9s. by the year; and with each child 3/. 6s. 8d., to be delivered upon assurance to be answered to the child when it should come out of his apprenticeship, for a stock to begin to live with; and the residue of the 50/. yearly to be employed in reparation of the house, and to raise some stock for the house of correction or working-house, or otherwise, as

should be set down by the said Sir John Popham in his lifetime, or in default thereof, then as his said son and overseers, or the most part of them, should be thought fit; and the said testator did thereby advise that one piece of timber should be set up over against the said hospital, in or near the footpath of the highway there, with an iron box upon it, to be close locked, with a notch in the top, to be put into the same box the charity of such people as did pass on horseback or on foot, which every night should be taken out by the president or matron, and each of which should have a key thereof, or in their default, by one other man or woman of the hospital, and to be punctually told, and to be put into some strong chest, to be provided for that purpose, the keys whereof to be always kept by some one of the governors of the said hospital, to be opened but once every quarter, and then by the order of the said governors, or of the most part of them, to be bestowed or employed for the necessary use and good of the said hospital, and of such as should be in the said hospital, and of the stock of and for the said house of correction; and the said Sir John Popham did thereby appoint the said house of correction and working-house only for the towns and parishes of Wellington and Buckland adjoining, in the said county of Somerset.

By an indenture, made 30th September, 1748, between Edward Popham, of Littlecot, in the county of Wilts, esquire, therein described as the descendant of the said Sir John Popham, the testator, of the one part; and John Popham, of New Inn, in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, and the several other persons therein described, the then governors of the hospital of Sir John Popham, Knight in Wellington, of the other part; reciting the will of the said Sir John Popham, as it has been before stated; and that the said hospital had been long since erected, but that it did not appear that the same had been endowed, or that lands to the value of 50/. a year had been conveyed, for the purposes in the will mentioned, but that the charity had been fully satisfied out of the estate of the said Sir John Popham in general; it is witnessed, that for endowing the said hospital, pursuant to the will of the said Sir John Popham, and for discharging the other estate of the said Edward Popham from the said rent of 50/, he, the said Edward Popham, for the nominal consideration herein mentioned, did thereby bargain, sell, and confirm, unto the said John Popham and others, of the second part, and their heirs, all those six closes of arable land and pasture in Wellington Landside aforesaid, called Hartrows Pitts,

containing by estimation 5 acres, as the same closes were in the possession or occupation of Evan Evans, his under tenants, or assigns; and also all that farm called Jurston Farm, with the land, meadow, and pasture ground belonging, called Byes and Redwoods, containing by estimation 36 acres or thereabouts; and also all those three closes of land, called Broadfields, containing by estimation 36 acres or thereabouts; and also all those three closes of land, called Broadfields, containing by estimation 13 acres or thereabouts, which said land and lands were situate, lying, and being within the manor of Jurston, in the parish of Wellington aforesaid, and were in the possession of James Smith; to hold the same unto the said John Popham and others, their heirs and assigns, for ever, upon the trusts, and to the intents and purposes, for the benefit of the said hospital, as mentioned in the said will; and in the said indenture was reserved a rent of 4*l.* per annum to the said Edward Popham and his heirs; and after the usual covenant for title, was thereby provided, that upon the death of any of the governors, the surviving governors, or the major part of them, should choose one or more governor or governors, in the place of him or them so dying, so as to make up the number of such governors to be six, to be chosen for ever out of the families and houses mentioned in the said will, in whom, together with the surviving governors, the estates were to be vested; and it was lastly provided, that if the said Edward Popham, his heirs and assigns, should at any time thereafter settle and convey other lands, in the counties of Devon and Somerset, or one of them, for the uses and upon the trusts above mentioned, of the clear yearly value of 50*l.* a year, then that indenture should be void.

In pursuance of this indenture, the lands therein described appear to have been taken possession of by the governors therein named, who continued for some time to let them, applying the whole rent for the benefit of the hospital. The land appeared to have been tenanted by the family of the Thomas's, under a lease originally made for forty years, who, after the expiration thereof, acted as proprietors of the estate, letting it to various tenants, together with other lands of their own, and considering themselves as responsible for the payment and application of the several sums ordered by the will to be paid to the poor people, and keeping the buildings in repair.

Some years ago, Mr. William Ayshford Sanford, of Nynehead Court, one of the surviving trustees, filed his information in the Court of

Chancery, stating the substance of the deed, in the course of which suit, on the 25th June, 1812, Mr. William Jones, of Foxdown, near Wellington, was appointed by the Master of the said Court the receiver of the rents of the said charity estates, who was annually to account for, and pay what he should receive of the arrears then due from the tenants, and also what he should receive of the growing rents and profits of the said estates.

Mr. Jones, being so constituted receiver of this estate, accordingly acted in that trust during his lifetime. When he first took upon himself the office, he found the estate let on two tenancies, the one being called Jurston Farm, consisting of about 49 acres arable and pasture; and the other called Sheeplands, consisting of about 28 acres, also arable and pasture.

The almshouses were rebuilt in 1833.

James Goddard's Gift.—James Goddard, by his deed poll, dated 7th October, 27 Elizabeth, granted unto Laurence Gifford and John Budde, therein described, an yearly rent-charge of 20s, to be issuing out of a messuage or tenement, and one fardel of land, containing 25 acres and 1 poll, called Lancocks, in the parish of Wellington, for the term of 3000 years from the death of the said James Goddard, to be paid at Lady Day in every year, the same to be employed and bestowed by them, their executors, administrators, and assigns to the use and benefit of such poor persons as should happen from time to time to be inhabiting within the parish of Wellington aforesaid, with the consent of the churchwardens and the overseers of the poor, for the time being, with powers of distress and entry for enforcing payment.

The deed poll was followed by three assignments of the property bearing date respectively 27 Aug. 1630, 1 Nov. 1660, and 23 March, 1682, by the last of which the rent-charge was assigned by the remaining trustee to the churchwardens of Wellington by name, and to their successors. The Commissioners of 1843 observed—‘Lancocks is a farm consisting of about 120 acres, of which Mr. Nicholas Were is the proprietor.’

The rent-charge appears to have been regularly received by the churchwardens of Wellington from the proprietors of the lands charged, or their tenants, and to have been distributed by them among the second poor of that parish.

Thomas Rowe's Gift.—By an indenture, dated 24th January, 1673.

made between John Rowe, son, heir, and executor of John Rowe, late of Wellington, deceased, of the one part ; and William Cooksley the elder, and others, being the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish, of the other part, reciting, that Thomas Rowe, late of London, deceased, the paternal uncle of the said John Rowe, party thereto, on or about the 19th July, 1658, had by his last will bequeathed to the town of Wellington aforesaid 50/. for ever, and reciting that John Rowe, the father and executor of the said Thomas Rowe, had not in his lifetime paid the said legacy of 50/. ; and that the said John Rowe, party thereto, was not then furnished with money to pay the same, but was desirous the said John Rowe the elder, and John Rowe the younger, having paid up all interest upon the said 50/. to settle lands in lieu thereof ; it is witnessed that the said John Rowe, the party thereto, in full satisfaction of the said legacy of 50/. did thereby grant and confirm unto the said William Cooksley, and others, all that close or parcel of land, containing one acre or thereabouts, situate in Wellington aforesaid, commonly known by the name of the Acre, at Town's End, and then in the possession of the said John Rowe, the party thereto ; to hold the same to them, their heirs, successors, and assigns, for ever, to the only use and behalf of the poor and indigent people for the time being, from time to time, of the town and parish of Wellington aforesaid, for ever.

The Commissioners observe—‘It does not appear from the parish books, which go back about 30 years, that this rent-charge has ever been paid during that period, nor is there any person now living in the parish who can identify the property. It was so ill-defined in the deed of grant, that probably on that account, it sooner fell out of recollection, and became lost by being confounded with the surrounding property.’

Richard Hickman's Charity.—Richard Hickman, of Exon, gave by his will 52s. yearly, payable on Christmas Day, to ten poor people of Wellington (who have no relief from the parish) for the term of 1999 years; and his dwelling-house in Exon is bound for the same.

The Commissioners observe—‘The premises charged in the city of Exeter are well known to the churchwardens of Wellington, and the 52s. are regularly received, and applied towards the relief of the second poor in winter time.’

John Parsons' Charity.—John Parsons, merchant, late of Sandford, Arundel, by his will, bearing date January 26th, 1702, gave the use of

10*l.* for ever to ten ancient poor people, of Wellington, who receive no relief.

The Commissioners observe—‘The 10*l.* was received by the parish, and has been long ago expended; but the interest of it is paid out of the rates, to the same objects and in the same manner as stated in Hickman’s charity.’

Charities of John Ware, John Perry, and Thomas Marsh.—John Ware, of Culmstock, Devon, gent., gave to the poor of Wellington the use of 5*l.* for ever. 1688.

John Perry, of Perry, gave by his will the use of 5*l.* for ever to five poor people of this parish who have no relief.

Thomas Marsh, sen. of the town, tallow-chandler, by his will, dated 21 April, 1703, gave the use of 5*l.* for ever to five poor ancient people, at ‘the churchwardens’ discretion.’

The Commissioners observe—‘It does not appear by any document that the interest of these monies has ever been paid, or what has been done with the principal; the charities must therefore be considered as lost.’

John Greenslade’s Charity.—John Greenslade, gent., gave by his will, dated 21 August, 1620, for the use of the poor of Wellington, 5*s.* yearly, payable one month before St. Andrew’s Day, for the term of 300 years, out of his lands in Wellington.

The Commissioners observe—‘The memory of no person in the parish records the payment of this charity; the land is now incapable of being identified, and the charity must be considered as lost to the parish.’

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

Drokensford's Register—The Chantry—Rental and Possessions—The Terrier of Wellington—Architecture of the Parish Church—Inscriptions on the Mural Tablets—Window Inscriptions—Stones in the Floor—Restoration—Sculptured Effigies—The Bells—The Churchyard—List of the Vicars—Notes thereon—List of Churchwardens—Trinity Church—All Saints.

DROKENSFORD'S *Register*. — The earliest Bishop's Register in the diocese is that of Bishop Drokensford, who was Bishop of Bath and Wells from 1309-1329. From this Register, which has been printed,¹ such items as bear upon the history of this town have been extracted. Drokensford was a very active man, and exercised a personal oversight over each manor. He enforced devotions and obligations by spiritual censures, and on this principle he imposed on the people of Wellington and Chard the duty of making their offerings on the dedication day of their churches equal to their Christmas offerings; and when they were found slack in obedience, he required that the names of defaulters should be reported. This was followed one year by a mandate as given below.

Bps mandate to all his tenants, free and villain, in his manors of Wellington and Buckland. He bids them make their offerings on the dedication days, on pain of excommunication, after ancient precedent, still observed, 'in magna matrici seu paroch. Eccl. Well.' Mandate to be kept by the Vicar of Wellington.²

Signed, Wellington (no date).

¹ *Som. Record Society*.

² *Drok. Reg.* p. 108.

Mem.—Commission to Tho. de Dillington and Ric. de Ford, Bps clerks, to reconcile church and churchyard of Wellington by aspersion, the water being blessed by Bp.

Kingsbury, Aug. 19, 1316.

Mem.—John de Welyngton, sub-deac., to seek orders from any Bp. of Province.

March 27, 1316.

Mem.—Monday before Easter, 1316, at Wellington, *'in camera.'* Bp. absolved Ph. and Hugh de Columbers, Jo. and Gilbert Fychet, Rob^t de Quantoxhead, R. de Brent, John Tremenet, and Phil. Barayl; being satisfied of their contrition, thus restoring them to the Sacraments.

(Dated) 1316.

Among the manorial houses kept in readiness for the Bishop was one at Wellington in which there was room for the Bishop's very imposing retinue. There were probably also a hall and chapel here.

Chantry, &c.—After the survey of 1534 known as the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, patrons and vicars got rid of their possessions as fast as they could lest they should be confiscated. An Act of 1545 decided that all chapels that were not regulated as their founders intended should be vested in the King, and Commissioners were appointed to find out how many Chantries or Stipendaries there were, to what purpose they were founded, and how the revenues were used. Inventories of all church goods were to be made.¹

Wellyngton wt West buckleland, a chapell annexed to the paryshe of Wellyngton aforesaide.

The Salary of one prieste celebratyng in Wellyngton aforesaide. Is yerely worthe in Landes, Tenements, and other hereditaments in the tenure of sondery persones as may appere particularly more at large by the Rentall of the same lxxv*s.* x*d.*

Whereof in Rentes resolute paide yerely ... viij*s.* iiij*d.*

And so Remayneth clere lxvij*s.* v*d.*

Plate and Ornamentes. None but a challice waing vj oz.

¹ Green, *Somerset Chantries*, Vol. I.

Memord. John Spicer clerke of thage of xxxij yeres a man of honest conversacion well learned incumbent ther receyved the hole proffects towardes his lyving and hathe a pencion of the Kinges Mat^e of viij markes by the yere goinge out of the late monastery of Brewton.

Sir Roger Blewet, Knight, hathe wt holden one burgage cont one acre and a half comprised in the dede of feoffemt the space of viij or viij yeres, and claymethe the same, to be his owen enheritaunce not charged in this value.

John Taylor hathe wt holden ij burgages contayned in the same feoffemt the space of viij or ix yeres claymynge the same to be his owen enheritaunce not charged in this value.

The Salarye of one prieste, callyd a brothered priest celebratyng in West-buckland

Is yerely worthe in Landes, tenements, and other hereditaments in the tenure of sondery persones as may appere particularly more at large by the rental of the same ...	lvij <i>s.</i>	iii <i>d.</i>
Whereof in Rentes resolute paid yerely ...	... ix <i>s.</i>	viij <i>d.</i>
And so Remayneth clere ...	... ...	xlvij <i>s.</i> viij <i>d.</i>
Plate and Ornamentes.	None but a challice waing vj oz.	½.

Memord. William Culverwell clerke of thage of lvi yeres incumbent ther. a man of honest conversation.

The parsonage of Wellington aforesaide is impropriate to the Provostrie of Welles.

The Vicarage ther is of the yerely value of xvij*l.* x*s.* wherof John Elmer (or Wylmer) clerke, is nowe incumbent, who findeth ij priestes one to mynister at Wellington and thother at West buckelande.

Ptakers of the Lordes holy Sooper, Dccc, viij.

RENTAL AND POSSESSIONS OF THE CHANTRY.

In 1548 a further commission was appointed to inquire into the lands and possessions of these establishments. This resulted in 'The Survey Rental.'

William Cape holds a burgage there, and renders per ann. $vs.$ $iiijd.$
William Gyfforde holds half a burgage there, and renders per ann. $vs.$

John Budde holds half a burgage there, and renders per ann. $iiij\frac{1}{2}s.$
Robert Husye holds half a burgage there, and renders per ann. $vs.$
Thomas Royoll holds half a burgage there, and renders per ann. $xij\frac{1}{2}s.$
William Frye holds an acre of land there, and renders per ann. $vjd.$
John Mondye holds half a burgage, and renders per ann. $vs.$ $iiijd.$
William Byrrde holds half a burgage there, and renders per ann. $iiij\frac{1}{2}s.$
William Gyfforde holds half a burgage there, and renders per ann. $vjs.$ $vijd.$

John Baker holds a tenement there, and renders per ann. $iiij\frac{1}{2}s.$ $vijd.$
John Gaylande holds a shop there, and renders per ann. $vijd.$
Andrew Hewet holds a tenement there, and renders per ann. $vs.$
Robert Mogridge holds half a burgage there, and two and a half acres of land, and renders per ann. $vij\frac{1}{2}s.$

Thomas Lynke holds half a burgage, and renders per ann. $vs.$
An annual rent coming from the revenues of a tenement there, in the tenure of Margaret Budde, per ann. $ij\frac{1}{2}s.$
An annual rent from the revenues of a messuage and curtilage there in Chipping Strete in the tenure of Laurence Frie, per ann. $iijs.$ $iiijd.$ Total $lxxv\frac{1}{2}s.$ $xa.$

Deduct—Rent resolute to the Manor of Wellington for all the burgages, land and tenements, &c., per ann. $vij\frac{1}{2}s.$ $iiij\frac{1}{2}d.$
And remains over per ann. $lxvij\frac{1}{2}s.$ $v\frac{1}{2}d.$

WEST BUCKLAND.

Chapel annexed to the parish church of Wellington. The service of a priest then called a Brotherhedd priest.

Divers persons there hold four tenements with gardens adjacent in Wellington, also vij acres and a half of land lying in the fields there, and render per ann. viij*s.* iiiij*d.* Total lvij*s.* iiij*d.*

Deduct—rent resolute to the Bishop of Bath and Wells as of his manor of Wellington per ann. ix*s.* viij*d.*

And remaineth over per annum, xlviij*s.* viij*d.*

Under the Rental and Possessions of Ilminster appears the following :¹—

William Warryn holds a meadow called Cowlande Mede, containing by estimation two acres, also a burgage with appurtenances and a dove house in Willington, and renders per ann. xiiiij*s.* viij*d.*

The aforesaid William Warryn holds a burgage with appurtenances in Willington late in the tenure of Robert Wylle, and an acre of land there in the tenure of William Sharpcotte and also a house there called the clothe house late in the tenure of William Oyers, and renders per ann. xvij*s.* viij*d.*

Under the Rental and Possessions of Bradford occurs the following interesting entry :²—

Thomas Crowe holds by indenture an inn or burgage and half a burgage in Wellington called the Swanne, and renders per ann. xxx*s.*

Among the annual rents given to the use and maintenance of obits and anniversaries in St. Andrew's, Wells, there appears :—

David de Wellington, v*s.* viij*d.*

PENSION.

Service in Wellington.—John Spycer, 3*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*

¹ Green, *Somerset Chantries*, I., p. 167.

² Ibid., p. 210.

Charter of Jocelyn.—Upon the decease of Master Hugh de Wilton, parson on Chiw, and of Stephen de Tornaco, parson of Welinton, these two churches to pay 10 marcs each, nomine beneficii, for the service of the glorious Virgin in our church at Wells, A.D. 1215.¹

Inspx: and conf. by Thomas the Prior of Bath of a charge made by the Dean and Chapter of Wells of 10*l.* a-year on their manor of North Cory for an obit for Canon William de Welyngton, in return for his great liberality towards the church and to the fabric of the Chapter House. March 24. A.D. 1300 intrante.²

The Terrier of Wellington.—A true copy of the Terrier of Wellington and West Buckland, with the dues belonging to the Vicar of the same, as it was taken out of the Rolls in London according to the endowments of the vicarage.

Impres.—A House with a Barn and Pigeon Houses, and a Plot of Ground with Garden Room, lying on the South side of the parish of Wellington.

Item.—Another Dwelling-house with some little Garden Room before it and a plot of ground behind it, lying and being on the East side of the Town and parish church of West Buckland.

The Tithe of all Hops, Lambs, Wool, Pigs, Geese, Turkies, Honey, Wax, Apples and Pears, Plumbs, and Walnuts etc. to be paid in kind. From the mill the Tenth part of the Toll is due if not compounded.

There is due for cattle that are sold before they are yoked or milked, that is, for a Cow 4*d.*, for a Heifer 3*d.* per annum, and for a Steer 6*d.*, fall of a colt or calf 1*d.*, for a Garden 1*d.*

Also the 12th pennyes due of pasture ground if rented by any, of Corn ground rented there is 2*d.* per acre due, for the tithe of grass 2*d.* per acre, and for old meadows 2*d.* per acre.

What Lambs fall after St. Mark's Day, what Sheep are bought or sold before sheartime, what Sheep are bought and sold between

¹ *Hist. MSS. Wells*, p. 25.

² *Ibid.*, p. 193.

sheartime and sheartime they are to pay proportion of Tithe for as many months as they be pastured in the parish.

What Lambs or Pigs fall, if there be not seven, you are to pay 2*d.* a piece for as many as you have, and what grass or after grass any one rents 1*d.* of a shilling is due for the same.

If any buy Cattle and sell them again and doth not work them he is to pay the 10*th* or 12*th* part of his gain which the Law calls unprofitable Cattle.

A 1*d.* of an acre is due for the Shear of Land grass, if rented, the 12*th* is due.

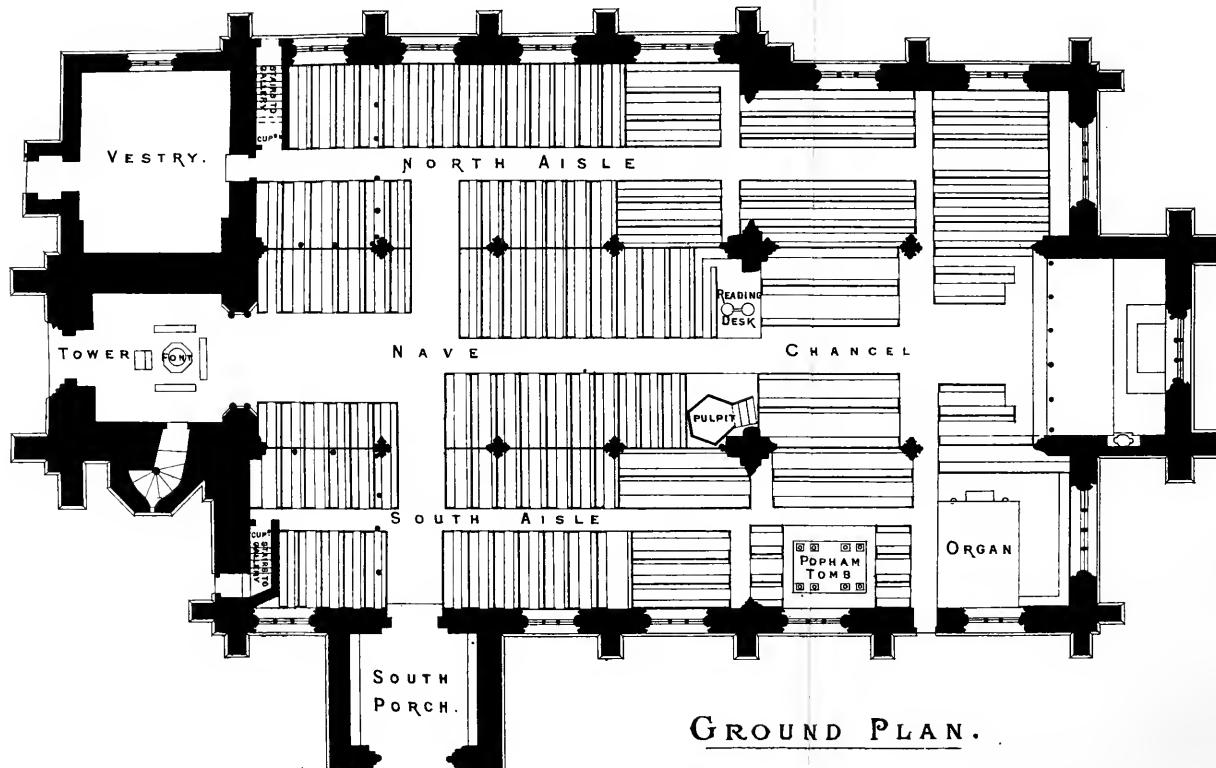
What Sheep, Horses, or other Cattle are brought out of other parishes and depastured within either parish, the 10*th* shilling of whatsoever is paid for their so depasturing is due to the Vicar.

If any rents £20 pr annum in pasture, and has £20 pr annum in pasture of his own, and keeps his sheep or cattle upon both, he is to pay 1*d.* of a shilling for what he rents, but to be abated half his tithes of Kine, Wool, Lambs, Mead^{ws} etc.

The Tithe of all Garden Ware 5*d.* p. acre (if not compounded for).

In the Harleian MSS. there is a copy of an instrument dated 1340 which records the fact of a Provost of the Church of Wells having undertaken to observe the statutes of the church. In that instrument it is provided 'that the said Provostship consists of (among others) Wellington Church,' and all appurtenances belonging to the churches named except Wellington, 'where we have reserved to the Behoof of us and our successors a certain Piece of ground with an Alder Plot called Presteleg, and a certain little meadow called Spartemed, which are within the compass of our wood there. Provided that in the said Church of Wellington there shall be for ever a perpetual vicar, whose vicarage shall consist of all the small tithes, Legacies, and obventions of the altars as well of Buckland as of Wellington, and the Tithes of Mills and Hay, except the Tithes of Hay from the Demesne of Gerebert Knight of Wellington and his heirs.

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,
WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.



Scale of Feet.





‘There is also assigned to the said Vicarage a certain House with a competent yard on the south side of the Church of Wellington, and another House with a competent yard on the east side of the Church of Buckland.’

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH CHURCH

(Dedicated to St. John the Baptist).

Architecture.—It has been claimed very justly for Somersetshire churches that they take precedence of all other styles of parochial architecture. The Parish Church of Wellington forms a very fair specimen of the typical Somersetshire church. It has a magnificent and elaborate tower, distinct from the aisles, with a clerestory and a large southern porch, and many other points of merit which will be touched upon.

The foundation of the tower has been attributed to a period not later than Henry VI., and we shall probably not be far wrong in describing the church as a fifteenth-century one, the tower being the earliest portion. The building consists of a nave of four bays with well-proportioned arches and clerestory, western tower, north and south aisles, south porch, chancel, north and south chancel, aisles or chapels, and modern vestry at the west end of the north aisle.

The fine tower is of three stages, with bold staircase turret in the centre of the south side, carried above the parapet, and finished with a large pinnacle or spirelet. Our tower thus avoids what is considered from an architectural point of view a blemish, namely, the concealment of the staircase turret among the corner buttresses. In our case the staircase turret is prominent, and is crowned by a pinnacle much larger than those at the corners.

The western doorway is a handsome one, with square drip stone, enclosing a pointed arch, the spandrels thus formed being filled with boldly carved foliage. On either side of the doorway is a canopied niche now incomplete and without figures, but probably intended

for—and most likely at one time had—figures of the patron and another saint in them. Above is a large four-light window divided horizontally by a transom. With the exception of two small windows facing south in the ringing-loft stage, the walls are otherwise unbroken to the bottom of the windows in the belfry. The parapet, with angle pinnacles and boldly carved gargoyle forms a suitable finish to a really beautiful tower.

The tower walls are built of ashlar, formed chiefly of local stones, with Hambdon Hill stone dressings, and are almost in their original state, but the church has been much repaired and altered, apparently, chiefly in the present century.

The windows generally are large, of the usual character of perpendicular work, and the walls are finished with battlemented parapets.

The nave roof is the original waggon-headed one, covered with lead, but the plastered panels between the moulded ribs, having been coated with what appears to be paper imitating oak, it now has a modern and somewhat displeasing appearance, as seen from the interior. The other roofs are entirely modern, except that of the south aisle, the timbers of which latter roof appear to have had the mouldings cut back and the spaces, or panels, between them plastered.

The arches dividing the nave from the tower and chancel are panelled, and this as well as two small niches for figures formed in the hollow mouldings of the piers on the south side of the nave, enrich the appearance of the interior. There is also the canopy of a niche remaining in the south-east angle of the south aisle.

That portion of the south chancel aisle which contains the elaborate tomb of Sir John Popham was no doubt a chapel, as the remains of a piscina, now shadowed by the tomb, exist in the south wall. The chapel was probably divided from the aisle and chancel by screens with an altar standing against the eastern one.

The organ occupies the remaining portion of this south chancel aisle, which may have been a second chapel, with separate south

entrance for the priest. There are two niches in the jambs of the east window above and on either side of where the altar in this chapel would have stood.

There is some ground for supposing that a similar arrangement of double chapels existed in the north chancel aisle, as in the eastern wall there is a canopied tomb recessed in the wall with a recumbent effigy of, most probably, the founder of the chapel. As far as can at present be made out, the inscription on this figure, which is that of a priest with hands clasped and uplifted, is 'Richard Frere de Welyngton.'

The chancel, with the exception of the east window and large piscina in the south wall (both of which have been much restored) and arches, is quite modern and has consequently lost much of its interest. The table is modern, of oak, divided by small shafts into five front panels and two end panels, and the whole of the steps and flooring at the east end are a recent arrangement of wood.

The font is a handsome modern octagon on a marble base, with shafts, projecting canopy, and pendants at the angles. The seats throughout are modern, but some portions of old carving, probably taken from the original bench ends or rood screen, may be seen in the framing of the galleries at the west ends of the two aisles, also in the chancel stalls.

The oak pulpit is made up of various fragments, the main portion being Jacobean work, with handsomely carved fifteenth century panels planted on the plain panels. In the centres of the carved panels are shields, each of three bearing three leaves of the shamrock, and the fourth a cross. The base of the pulpit seems to have been formed of the curved moulded ribs and carving of the canopy of the former rood screen, all other traces of which have been removed.

The lectern is a modern one of brass. The handsomely carved reading-desk, supported on two richly ornamented shafts, was pro-

bably made from some other piece of furniture, and no doubt its history could be obtained by making inquiries locally. The doors and hinges do not call for any remark, as their woodwork and iron-work generally are modern. The painted and other glass are also modern. The absence of old glass detracts much from the appearance of the interior.

Although the church is practically a fifteenth century building, no doubt some portions of the walls belong to an earlier period, and remains of thirteenth and fourteenth century moulded work are to be found here and there, the most important of which are the south doorway, the east window, and the large piscina in the chancel, as well as the canopied tomb before referred to. At the west end of the south aisle can be traced externally the outline of the coping of a narrower aisle than the present one, which probably existed prior to the fifteenth century.

The stones used in the walls are of various kinds, and many of them, without doubt, before resting in their present positions had been used in a previous building. Flints have been used largely for the facing of the walls of north aisle and chancel, and a considerable portion of these walls appears to have been either rebuilt or refaced in the present century, whilst the Ham stone dressings of the windows and other parts also appear to be modern. The south wall contains a variety of materials, and four of the windows in it are probably original as regards their jambs and arches, the tracery and mullions having been renewed.

Besides Hambdon Hill stone and local sandstone, Bath and Beer oolites have been used at various times for the dressings. The walls which, except the tower, are of rubble masonry, have been largely pointed with modern mortar, and the old mortar seems to be composed of lime and sand, and not noteworthy in any respect.

In a word, the general state of repair is good—that is to say, there is not much that calls for attention on account of decay ; but it is to be regretted that in the past so much old work, instead of

being carefully repaired, has been bodily removed and entirely replaced by modern work. These remarks apply with special force to the roofs, seats, and windows.

To the foregoing notes may be added the observations made upon our church by Professor Freeman, at the meeting of the Som. Archæological Society here in August 1862.¹ He said that the church was of the usual parochial type—local perpendicular, retaining some small Early English portions. The eastern window, the niche at the end of the north chancel aisle (which had been moved from its proper place in the north aisle), and the south porch, were the only ones noticeable. . . . The mouldings of the south door were very curious indeed. The mouldings of the arch were of Early English character, very rough, and seemed like imitations. The eastern window manifestly belonged to the earliest days of tracery—the end of the thirteenth century—before the geometrical system was fully developed. He missed the shafts running up to the roof and above the string of the arches, which gave a degree of finish to a church which this did not possess. Here they had the plain arches and the plain clerestory windows above them. The best thing in the church was the belfry arch, which was lofty and beautiful; but even there he missed the vaulted roof which he saw in so many other towers. The chancel arch was inferior, and the effect of its being raised had been to disturb somewhat the proportions of the chancel. The tower was a most curious part of the building. The arrangement of the belfry staircase was very unusual, being made in the middle of one side. The roof was a genuine coved, waggon, or barred roof, which is characteristic of the county.

Monuments.—The principal monument in the church is a magnificent one erected over the tomb of Sir John Popham. Upon the table of this elaborate and substantial memorial there lie the effigies of Sir John Popham and Lady Popham. He is dressed in his judge's

¹ *Som. Arch. Trans.*, 1861-2, p. 37.

robes, chain, and small black cap, and placed with his head toward the west. On the lower basement, at the head and feet, are four other smaller figures of two men and two women kneeling face to face; on the north side of the same basement are five boys and eight girls, dressed in black, kneeling in a row; and on the south side are nine women kneeling in the same manner. Over Sir John and his lady is a superb arched canopy, ornamented with the family arms, roses, paintings, and obelisks; the whole supported by eight round columns of black marble, five feet high, with Corinthian capitals green and gilt. On the west side of this canopy is the following inscription:—

S^R IOHN POPHAM KNIGHTE
and Lord Chiefe Ivstice of England and
of the Honorable Privie Co:
vncell to Queene Elizabeth
and after to King Iames, aged
76. Died the 10th of Ivne, 1607,
and is here interred.

Against the east wall of the same chapel wherein the Lord Chief Justice is buried is a brass plate, with an inscription to the memory of another of the same family:—

‘ Maria Alexandri Popham de Huntworthy comitatu Somerset, generosi, uxor tertia Tho. Gatchell, de Clawsey, armigeri, filia natu maxima; castra, pudica, pia; suis blanda, omnibus benigna: beatae resurrectionis spe, hac aeterna domo (relictis Thoma et Alexandro filius) adquiescit. obt 18 die Octobris, A.D. 1717, aetat 49.’¹

ARMS: *Argent*, on a chief *gules*, two bucks' heads cabossed *or*, Popham; impaling *ermine*, a garb *azure*, on a canton of the second an amulet *or*, Gatchell.

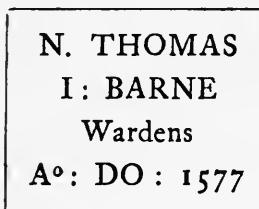
On a brass plate in the chancel floor:—

‘ Here lyeth the bodies of three worthy gentlemen, successively possessors of the mansion house of Nowers in this parish. First,

¹ Collinson (1791).

William Gifford was here buried Nov. 5, 1581. Next, William his sonne was here interred, Dec. 1, 1626. To him succeeded John, his sonne, who died without issue, and was here buried June 4, 1675.¹

Over the southern doorway (main entrance) there is a stone with the date 1577 on it. The names are those of the churchwardens during whose term of office the church was probably rebuilt, and the old materials then used:—



The following are copies of inscriptions on the walls and windows of the interior:—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN ROBERT HENRY JACKSON,
Of Swallowfield Place, in this parish,
Who died 31st Dec^r, 1847, aged 56
and JANE SCARLETT (*née* JENNINGS), his wife,
who died 3rd Sept^r, 1869, aged 74.

Also

Of their eldest son and eldest and fourth daughter,
JOHN THOMAS DODD JACKSON, who died 31st Jan^y 1852 (unmarried),
aged 29

JANE HENRIETTA JACKSON, who died 14th March, 1878, aged 63, and
HARRIET JACKSON, who died 30th Nov^r 1884 aged 64.

All of whom are buried at Holy Trinity Church in this parish.

And of

Their 2nd and 4th sons and 2nd, 3rd, and 6th daughters,

FRANCIS ROBERT DALZELL JACKSON, who died at Guildford,
Sep^r 8th, 1823, aged 8 weeks,

MELLO WILLIAM JACKSON, late Lieut. Queen's Royal Regiment, who died at
Wellington, New Zealand, 14th Sept^r, 1875, aged 37.

¹ Collinson (1791).

AUGUSTA ELIZABETH GARDINER (widow of Rev. Robert Gardiner),
 Who died at Taunton, Somerset, 13th Nov^r, 1869, aged 52,
ELIZABETH SCARLETT RICH (wife of William Charles Rich, Lieut. 46th
 Reg^t Madras), who died at Kurnool, Nov^r 14th, 1843, aged 25,
CAROLINE NEALE JACKSON, who died at Guildford, Surrey, Jan^y 9th, 1829,
 Aged 1 month.

This Tablet is erected by **ROBERT EDWIN JACKSON**, of Victoria,
 British Columbia,

CHARLOTTE MARY ANN IRELAND (widow of **JAMES IRELAND**),
 Of Kingstown, co. Dublin, and
THERESA PRESTON (wife of **JAMES PRESTON**, of Trelawn, co. Dublin,
 The 3rd son and 5th and 7th daughters of the above-named
 J. R. H. JACKSON and JANE SCARLETT, his wife.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM JONES,
 Of Foxdown, in this Parish, who died 31st January, 1830,
 Aged 81 years.
 Also of **JOAN**, his wife,
 Daughter of **THOMAS SOUTHWOOD**, Esq.,
 Who died 11th June, 1828,
 Aged 73 years.

IN MEMORY OF
EDWARD AND MARY IESSE,
 Son and daughter of the Reverend **WILLIAM IESSE**, Vicar of this Parish :
EDWARD died Sept. 24, 1765,
 Aged 25 years ;
MARY died Dec^r 27, 1766,
 Aged 24 years ;
 And are both buried in a Cave in the Church Porch.
LUCY, wife of **WILLIAM IESSE**, Vicar,
 Died March 3^d, 1781, in the 74th year of her age.
 The Reverend **WILLIAM IESSE**, M.A., 47 years Vicar of this Church,
 Died 22nd of January, 1791,
 Aged 85.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
F R E D E R I C K W H I T E,
A Solicitor of this town upwards of 51 years,
Who died the 25th day of February, 1845,
In the 73rd year of his age.
Also of **ELLERY**, his wife,
The daughter of the Revd **P E T E R B E A V I S**,
She died the 19th day of November, 1828, aged 42 years.
Also of **W I L L I A M**,
The eldest son of **F R E D E R I C K** and **ELLERY W H I T E**,
Who died the 25th Day of May, 1844,
Aged 39 years,
Also a Solicitor of this town,

[*Brass Tablet.*]

IN MEMORY OF
F R A N C E S R O D H A M,
Who died 23rd Sept^r, 1872, aged 63 years,
2nd daughter of **F R E D K.** and **ELLERY W H I T E**, and
Widow of **T H O M A S R O D H A M**, Sol^r of this town.

[*Brass Tablet.*]

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
F R E D E R I C K W H I T E, also of **M A R Y J A N E**, his wife,
Who died May 25th, 1881. Who died June 14, 1879.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
L E U I S A J A N E S A W Y E R,
Born
Feb. 11th, 1773,
Died
Feb. 7th, 1794.

IN MEMORY OF
 Mr. JOHN COOKESLEY of this Town,
 Apothecary,
 Who departed this life
 On the 26th day of April,
 In the year of our Lord 1786,
 And in the 31st year of his age,
 In Hope of a happy Resurrection
 to Life Eternal, through the merits
 of Jesus Christ.

Liliae Praeluent Telis.

IN MEMORY OF
 ALEXANDER EDWARD WEBBER, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,
 Who died April 6th, 1849, aged 38 years.
 He was Vicar's Churchwarden of this parish from
 1840 until his death, and promoted several
 improvements in this Town.
 Also WILLIAM BARRY WADE WEBBER, M.R.C.S.,
 Who died April 6th, 1867, aged 58 years.
 Also WILLIAM THOMAS,
 His only son, who was born and died March 29th, 1853.
 Also ELIZABETH ANN WERE,
 His only daughter,
 Who died May 23rd, 1858, aged 3 years.

In a vault underneath
 Lie the remains of
 SARAH FISHER ANCRAM,
 Wife of WILLIAM ANCRAM, Esq.,
 Late of Weston House,
 In this County,
 Who died 26th November, 1824,
 Aged 41 years.

IN MEMORY OF
 The Reverend
ROBERT JARRATT, M.A.,
 During more than 51 years
 Vicar of Wellington and West Buckland,
 Who died at Leeds January 24th, 1843,
 Aged 77 years,
 And is buried in this Church.
 This monument
 Is erected by his Parishioners and
 Friends in affectionate remembrance of his
 unceasing labours in Christ for the
 temporal and eternal welfare of those
 committed to his charge.
 'Remember . . . for ever.'—Heb. xiii. 7-8.

IN MEMORY OF
M A R G A R E T,
 Wife of Rev^d **ROBERT JARRATT, M.A.,**
 Vicar of Wellington and West Buckland,
 And daughter of
WILLIAM HEY, Esq., of Leeds,
 Who died 4th of August, 1816, aged 51 years.
 Also of
 Three of their children,
WILLIAM,
 Who died in infancy, August 26th, 1804,
SAMUEL,
 Who died in Malta,
 2nd of January, 1830, aged 21 years,
ANNE,
 Who died 18th Oct., 1832, aged 20 years.
 'If we believe . . . to him.'—1 Thess. iv. 14.

WINDOW INSCRIPTIONS.

South-East Window.

In Memory of the Reverend WILLIAM PROCTER THOMAS,
 Prebendary of Wells Cathedral and Vicar of this Parish,
 Who died October xxix., 1850, also of ANN, his
 Widow, who died Jvly the xth, 1853.

Altar Window.

THOMAS Presbiter hvjvs donavit.

North-East Window.

In Memory of POTTER JEREMIAH REDWOOD, who died
 in 1834, and SARAH REDWOOD, who died in 1855, and
 SARAH ELIZABETH JONES, who died A.D. 1843.

Tablet over inner door of South Porch.

This Church was enlarged and repaired in the year 1850, by which means additional accommodation for 288 persons was obtained. A grant of £120 in aid of the undertaking was made by the Incorporated Society, £100 by the Diocesan Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of Churches and Chapels, on condition that 212 of the additional seats described on the plan placed in the Vestry should be set apart and declared to be free for the use of the poor for ever, the provision of Church room previously to the alteration being to the extent of 590 seats, 80 of which number are free for the use of the poor, and are also shown on the plan. The word 'Free' is painted in a conspicuous manner on each free seat.

W. PROCTER-THOMAS, *Vicar.*

THOMAS BAKER,
 FREDERIC SHARLAND, } *Churchwardens.*

MEMORIAL STONES IN THE FLOOR.

North Aisle.

WILLIAM B. MORLE, Esq^r
 Died Feb^{ry} 17th 1845
 Aged 66 years.

Porch.

A T	1817	H T	1821
E T	1831	M T	1836
J T	February	6	1811

Chancel.

My soull riseth to the plesure of God

Heare

Lyeth the body of JOHN GRINSLADE Gent
 Who deceased the 25th of October Anno Domini 1620
 Here is my home till Trompe dothe sound
 and Christ for mee dothe call
 Then shall I rise ffrom Deathe to Liffe
 noe more to dy at all

[*Brass Plate in Chancel Floor.*]

FRANCES, wife of WM PROCKTER THOMAS, Esq^r
 Obiit 10 October (1731 ?)

Nave.

Here lyeth y^e body of THOMAS MARSH y^e elder of this parish
 tallow chandler who departed this life y^e 14th day
 of June anno dom 1703 aged 73 years.

Though underneath his body here doth ly, His
 heaven born soul with joy is fled only.
 His pitty great his piety was his gain and
 pattern was for patience under pain,
 But now his gain O what a change is this
 From death to life from pain to endless bliss.

Here also lyeth y^e body of THOMAS MARSH son of y^e s^d
 THOMAS MARSH who departed this life y^e 1st day
 of June Anno Dom 1704 aged 44 years.

Here also lyeth the body of CHARLES MARSH another son of the
 above THOMAS MARSH who departed this life ye (5 ?)
 day of July Ano Do 1703 aged in his 28 Y.

Here lyeth the body of (MARY?) the wife of

.... That they may rest from their labours their works doe followe them.

[First part of inscription hidden by hot-water pipes,
and the remainder illegible.]

Heare lieth the body of JOANE (BOVETT?) wief of RICHARDE
(BOVETT?) of this Parish who departed this life

[Remainder of inscription illegible.]

Restoration.—A glance over the extracts taken from the churchwardens' accounts will reveal the fact that our forefathers were not negligent of the Church, but rather did everything in their power to keep it in good order. The bells, doorways, railings, and, in fact, everything which appertained to the building, was the particular care of the parishioners in the seventeenth century.

The principal restoration of the parish church was carried out in 1848-50 by Mr. Procter-Thomas, when some very interesting archaeological discoveries were made, an account of which was printed in the *Ecclesiologist* for 1849, the main points of which are reproduced here.

In the early part of the year 1848, when the decayed chancel was being pulled down, some beautiful sculptures were found in detached pieces turned upside down, and forming the floor of the space round the altar. Further examination showed that the faces of the figures, and all the characteristic features, had been destroyed by the hammer, while the rich colouring and gilding were nearly perfect, owing, perhaps, to a coat of plaster which had been spread over their surface to receive the decalogue in black letter with red capitals. These sculptures evidently formed a portion of a very elaborate reredos which the spirit of the Reformation would not spare, and which either then or later were thrown down to form part of the pavement. The writer of the account referred to says:— What the design of this reredos was seems very uncertain; the principal fragments found form portions of a regular series of panels about twenty inches high.

In the centre was the Crucifixion, and on each side were trefoiled niches, so disposed as that a larger figure, averaging seventeen inches high, in a niche the whole height of the relief, alternated with pairs of smaller figures one above the other, each about eight and a half inches high, two of which are comprised in the height of the sculpture. It has not been possible to form any satisfactory idea of the original arrangement of the screen ; there were evidently larger figures, probably half the size of life, for portions of very rich canopies remain of this size, one of which appears to have been the centre of the arrangement. The panel containing St. Christopher would seem to have commenced the series of smaller figures ; the Crucifixion occupies the centre, and St. Michael is believed to be the last.

The Crucifixion represents our Lord extended on a **T** cross. The compartment is foliated under a square head, the ground is blue, thickly pounced with fleurs-de-lys in gold, but at the lower part a green colour has been added over the blue as if to represent a background of country, probably from its being the form of a hill, Mount Calvary. Near the cross stand two soldiers and two more figures, apparently the Blessed Virgin supported by another female. The one which seems to be the Virgin is remarkably draped : the dress is of gold . . . with blue sleeves and a blue mantle. The other figure has a tunic of dark red bordered in gold.

One considerable fragment contains four large and six small figures in niches. The first appears to be a female gorgeously habited and holding a handkerchief ; the second is a bishop, with mitre, staff, and chasuble, and giving the benediction ; the third appears to be holding his own head after decapitation, and would be St. Denys were it represented as a bishop ; the fourth, a large figure, is elaborately coloured and habited, and carries a staff, scrip, and bottle, but no cockleshell, indeed, no head-dress at all, which should make it St. James ; the fifth, seemingly in crown and cape, is too much mutilated for explanation ; the sixth is an abbess, with staff and book ; the seventh has a cope and spear, and may represent

St. Philip ; the eighth is an archbishop ; the ninth, another abbess ; the tenth, St. Peter, arrayed with great magnificence.

Another piece contains seven figures, three large and four small, including St. Catharine, and an angel destroying the wheel.

A fourth fragment contains but one large figure, probably St. Mary Magdalene, and two small ones, one a bishop, both carrying labels.

A fifth sculpture contains a large St. Christopher and two smaller niches, in which are represented small fishes and a mermaid. There are a number of other figures more or less mutilated.

As to the date of these interesting remains the character of the foliation of the stone-work would point to about the year 1400, early in the third pointed period. This date is confirmed by the armour in which the soldiers are dressed in the panel of the Crucifixion. They are seen, in spite of the dreadful mutilation they have suffered, to have a camail round the neck, a tight-fitting jupon emblazoned, a horizontal studded baldric or sword-belt, and pointed sollerets on the feet. The year 1400 will be a date, rather late, perhaps, than otherwise, for that point in the transition from mail to plate armour, which is indicated by these particulars. It is curious to observe that the jupon of one of the figures is emblazoned with scorpions, a device represented by ancient artists occasionally on the surcoats of the quaternion of soldiers who were present at the Crucifixion, since revived for the same purpose by Overbeck.

The above date is also confirmed by the costume of some of the female figures. A large figure of St. Catharine, for example, has a close-fitting surcoat or bodiced gown, with an outer mantle fastened by a jewelled strap or band across the breast. This dress is well known as belonging to the close of the fourteenth century, the reign of Richard II. and Henry IV. The true date, therefore, may be fairly concluded to be a little earlier than the year 1400. The sculptures described above are now preserved in the Museum at Taunton. Their colour has quite faded away.

Previous to 1848 there was a gallery which covered the belfry arch and hid it from view. This was removed at the restoration, and could well be spared. What we have most to deplore in connexion with the changes effected in 1848 is not only the removal of a beautiful rood screen, but its destruction, so that no parts of it have been preserved.

On the centre mullion of the east window of the chapel adjoining the south aisle there is carved a singular crucifix. The cross is budding into lilies, symbolical of the life in death, and the purity imparted through the same; the buds are five, representing the five wounds. It has been suggested that the grotesque head upon which the pedestal rests may signify the victory over sin. Altogether there is in this emblem much beautiful symbolical teaching which has largely been overlooked hitherto.

Thomas Wroth's Bell-Foundry.—There was in the last century an important bell-foundry in this town. All traces of it have now quite disappeared, and the following paragraphs will be news to many:—

‘Musberry, in Devon, Feb. 27, 1742.—Our old bells were sent on Saturday last to Mr. Thomas Wroth, bell-founder, in Wellington, Somerset, to be cast and put in the same key with that most excellent, merry, and harmonious peal he lately cast for St. George's, in the city of Oxon, which will ever redound to his honour so long as the bells remain in that steeple.’

‘Curry Rivel, in Somersetshire, Sept. 3.—Our peal of bells are compleated by Mr. Thomas Wroth, bell-founder of Wellington, in such a curious and workmanlike manner that the performance will ever redound to his honour whilst the bells remain in the steeple. The art came to him originally from the most famous Mr. Hodson, of Whitechapel, London, who did, in 1681, cast the Great Tom of Oxford, and from thence came to Wellington and erected a foundry for the late Mr. Wroth, who, with the present Mr. Wroth, in 1714, did new cast the first bell of St. Andrew's, in Wells, commonly called the Harebell bell, weighing 8300 gross, which is the largest peal bell in England.’¹

¹ These paragraphs are taken from the *Sherborne Mercury* of March 2, 1742, and Sept. 7, 1742, respectively, through the kindness of Mr. Edwin Sloper, who possesses an unique copy of that newspaper.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BELLS.

1. Thomas Mears . Founder . London 1841.
Mr. John Pope . Mr. Alex^r Webber . Churchwardens.
2. On . Earth . Peace . Amen.
Thomas . Wroth . fecit . 1748.
3. Thomas . Mears . Founder . London 1841.
Mr. John Pope . Mr. Alex^r Edward . Webber . Wardens.
4. Mr. Ioseph . Gifford . Mr. John . Wood . Churchwardens.
Thomas . Bilbie . fecit . 1781.
5. Fear . God . Honor . The . King 1748. T. W.
6. Mr. Ioseph . Gifford & Mr. Iohn . Wood . Churchwardens.
Thomas . Bilbie . Collumpton . Fecit 1781.
7. Draw . nigh . to . God . 1609. G. P.
8. 1748. The . Rev^d William . Iesse . Vicar.
Phillip Gifford . and Iohn Iones . Churchwardens.
James Perry . Thomas Marsh . Iohn Thomas.
Nos . Resonare . Iubent . Pietas . Mors . Atque . Voluptas.

Church Chests.—In the vestry there is a chest, of carved wood and of some antiquity, measuring about six feet by two feet, and with the initials A. V., but no date. There is another older and smaller chest, about five feet by eighteen inches, bearing the inscription : 1683. R . R . 19.

The church plate is of no special interest.

The Churchyard.—The oldest stone is now just outside the main entrance. It bears the following inscription :—‘Here Lyeth the Bodie of Iames Goddard who departed this Life the 21 of March 1589.’ There are also tablets to the following among other families :—Crosthwaite, Elworthy, Scadding, Holman, Hayward, Tremlett, Kidgell, Chard, Rossiter, Buller, Farrant, Thomas, Oland, Buncombe, Corner, Blake, Treacher, Butland, Jarvis, Webber, Burch, Sharland, and Prockter-Thomas.

The question is sometimes asked as to where the countless in-

habitants who lived in this town before us are buried. This question is a reasonable one, for it is obvious that in the space allotted as God's Acre comparatively few can be interred on one level. The truth is, that as necessity has arisen the churchyard when full has been raised to a higher level, and this is why our churchyard is, like many others, elevated some feet above the roadway.

LIST OF THE VICARS OF WELLINGTON.

(S. JOHANNIS BAPTISTAE.)

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	INCUMBENT.	HOW VACATED.	PATRON.
1215	Steph. de Tornato	—	—
1297	Alexander	—	—
1341	Thomas	—	—
1350. xv. Kal. Jun. .	Rob. de Merston	—	Joh. de Sancto Paulo praepo- situs Ecclesiae Wellens.
1361. Feb. 15 .	Joh. Wiggemore	—	Ex coll. episcopii
1408. April 5 .	Joh. Bray	—	„
„ July 4 .	Joh. Hanseforde	—	„
„ July 28 .	Petr. Scot.	per res. J. H. . .	„
1436. July 30 .	Rob. Ayshcombe, A.M. .	—	„
1465. Dec. 23 .	Tho. Overay, LL.B. . .	per mort. R. A. . .	Rob. Stillington custos tempo- ralium scde vacante.
1512. June 8 .	Tho. Cherde	per res. R. G. . . .	Ex coll. episcopi.
—	John Dakyn	—	„
1543. March 27	Joh. Wylmer, s.t.p. . . .	per res. J. D. . . .	„
1555. May 4 .	Jac. Bond, s.t.b.	—	Maria regina.
1595. Aug. 5 .	Will. Becket, A.M. . . .	per res.	Elisab. regina.
1613. Nov. 9 .	Joh. Salkeld, s.t.b. . . .	per cess.	Jacobus rex.
1635. July 16 .	Walt. Travers	per res. J. S. . . .	Carolus rex.

LIST OF THE VICARS OF WELLINGTON.—*Continued.*

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	INCUMBENT.	HOW VACATED.	PATRON.
1662. Feb. —	Nich. Brayne	—	Alex. Popham, arm.
1666, July 3	Edw. Thomas, A.M.	—	„
1679. Aug. 28	Jac. Dowle, A.M.	—	Carolus II. rex.
1689. Apr. 30	Tobias Williams, A.M.	—	Wilhelm et Maria reges.
1693. Mar. 21	Tho. Skinner, A.M.	per cess. T. W.	„
1720. Nov. 26	Joh. Hawes, A.M.	per res. T. S.	Fran. Popham,
1734	William Jesse, M.A.	—	— [arm.]
1791	Robert Jarratt, M.A.	per mort. W. J., 22 Jan. 1791.	—
1843	William Prockter-Thomas, LL.B.	per mort. R. J., 24 Jan. 1843.	W. Prockter- Thomas.
1850	William Walker Pulman, . M.A.	per mort. W. P.-T., 29 Oct. 1850.	„
1859	James Harris	per mort. W. W. P., 24 July 1859.	Mrs. Pulman.
1861	Harvey Marriott, M.A.	per mort. J. H., 29 Oct. 1861.	„
1865	George Knowling, M.A.	per mort. H. M., 18 Aug. 1865.	„
1889	William Walker Pulman, . M.A.	per mort. G. K., 23 March, 1889.	„

NOTES ON THE LIST OF VICARS.

‘1341. Proceedings in the Consistorial Court at Wells against Thomas, Vicar of Welyington, for appropriating to himself the fruits of Badyalton Church during a vacancy; worth 10*l.*’¹

Thomas Overay was admitted Precentor of Wells Feb. 19th, 1471. He afterwards became Chancellor of Wells. His will, dated July 18th, 1493, was proved Nov. 5th, 1493.²

¹ *Hist. MSS. Wells*, 107.

² *Le Neve, Fasti*, i. 171, 177.

Thomas Cherde, Chard, or Tybbes, D.D., born at Tracy's Hays, in the parish of Awliscombe, near Honiton. He became a monk of the Cistercian order, and in 1505 and 1507 proceeded to take his degrees as bachelor and doctor of divinity at Oxford. In 1518 he became Episcopus Solubricincis (Suffragan Bishop of Selymbria), and in June 1512 was appointed to the vicarage of Wellington, Somerset. He died in 1544. Though Thomas Chard's will can no longer be found, it is learnt from various sources that he became a benefactor to the church at Wellington, amongst other churches.¹

Joh. Dakyn, LL.B. 1525, LL.D. 1529, is believed to have been a member of St. Nicholas' hostel. It is supposed, too, that he was a monk of St. Mary's, York. He was chaplain to Dr. Knight, Bishop of Bath and Wells; Treasurer of Wells in 1554; Chancellor of Wells Jan. 20th, 1542. Died Nov. 9th, 1558, and is buried at Kirby Ravensworth, Yorks, where is a plain mural tablet to his memory.²

Joh. Salkeld, see under 'Personal History,' p. 78. Also note the following references to Salkeld's conversion from Popery:—

1612. March 23.—Sir W. Godolphin to Salisbury: 'Has delivered up his Spanish guest, John Dalston (*alias* Salkeld), with papers relative to his conversion from Popery.'

1615. March 17.—Grant to John and Henry Salkeld, co. Westmoreland, seminary priests, now converted, of pardon for going beyond seas, and being reconciled to the Church of Rome, with power to John Salkeld to retain the vicarage of Wellington, co. Somerset.

Walter Travers.—John Travers, son of Walter Travers, a goldsmith of Nottingham, married July 25th, 1580, Alice, daughter of John Hooker, and sister to Richard Hooker. Walter Travers was one of four sons of this marriage, all of whom entered the Church.

¹ Stubbs, *Reg. S.c. Anglic.* p. 146; also Pring, *Thomas Chard*, 1864, and Oliver, *Monasticon Diocesis Exon.* 1846-54.

² Cooper, *Athenae*, i. 181, 2.

Walter, with whom alone we have to do, became chaplain to King Charles I., and was presented in succession to the rectory of Steeple Ashton, Wilts, and vicarage of Wellington. Died rector of Pitminster, April 7th, 1646, and was buried in Exeter Cathedral. One of his sons was Thomas Travers, M.A., an ejected clergyman of 1662. Walter Travers, the famous lecturer at the Temple and opponent of Hooker, was brother to John Travers (*super*), and therefore uncle to this vicar of Wellington.¹

William Jesse, son of John Jesse, of Chilmark, Wilts, gent. Trin. Coll. matric. March 2nd, 1724-5, aged 19; B.A. 1728; M.A. 1731. Died 1791.

Charles Jesse, son of William, of Wellington, cler. Trin. Coll. matric. Jan. 14th, 1762, aged 15; B.A. 1765; M.A. 1768; B.D. 1778.

William Jesse, son of William, of Wellington, cler. Trin. Coll. matric. March 26th, 1757, aged 18; B.A. 1761. This Jesse was probably father of William Jesse, who was successively vicar of Pelsall, co. Stafford, and Margaretting, Essex, and who died June 5th, 1858.²

Robert Jarratt, Trinity College, Cambridge. B.A. 1787; M.A. 1790.

William Prockter-Thomas, son of Prockter-Thomas, of Bishops Hull, Somerset, arm. St. Mary's Hall, Oxon, matric. May 7th, 1801, aged 17; LL.B. from Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1808; preb. of Wells 1821; vicar of Wellington 1843, until his death, Oct. 29th, 1850.

William Walker Pulman, third son of James Pulman, of Westminster, arm. Christ Church, Oxon, matric. May 12th, 1842, aged 19; B.A. 1846; M.A. 1849; vicar of Wellington 1850, until his death, July 24th, 1859.

Harvey Marriott, son of William Marriott, of Dorking, Surrey, arm. Worcester Coll., Oxon, matric. Oct. 17th, 1798, aged 16;

¹ *Notes and Queries*, iii. iv. 28.

² *Foster, Alumni*.

curate of Marston, co. Worcester, 1807 ; rector of Claverton, Bath, 1808 ; vicar of Loddiswell, Devon, 1847-1862 ; vicar of Wellington 1862, until his death, Aug. 18th, 1865. Mr. Marriott traced his descent from the Blood Royal of England, and his pedigree back to Edward I.¹ (For list of books by H. M. see Bibliography.)

George Knowling, only son of Richard Eales Knowling, of Stoke Damarel, Devon, gent. Pemb. Coll. matric. May 1845, aged 18 ; B.A. 1849 ; M.A. 1852 ; East Stonehouse 1851-1865 ; vicar of Wellington 1865, until his death, March 23rd, 1889.

William Walker Pulman, second son of William Walker Pulman, of Wellington, cler. St. John's Coll. matric. Oct. 12th, 1872, aged 19 ; B.A. 1876 ; M.A. 1882 ; held various curacies 1876-1885 ; rector of Westborough, co. Lincoln, 1885 ; vicar of Wellington 1889.

LIST OF CHURCHWARDENS.

1684.	Thomas Marsh. William Gifford.	1695.	John Callway.
1685.	Thomas Stubbs. Roger Jewill.	1696-97.	No entry.
1686.	John Norman. John Perry.	1698.	John Musgrave. Will. Joans.
1687.	John Greenslade. Robert Bland.	1699.	George Southe. Thomas Munday.
1688-90.	No entry.	1700.	George Southe. Thomas Munday.
1691.	Richard Surtherton. Thomas Gifford.	1701.	Thomas Marsh, Jun. Peter Berry.
1692.	William Clark. Hugh Mellor.	1702.	George Benison. Robert Southe.
1693.	William Clark. Hugh Bellett.	1703.	William Mellor. James Gifford.
1694.	William Miller. William Budd.	1704.	George Cockram. Thomas Gifford.
1695.	Christopher Woolcott.	1705.	Cornelius Marsh. James Perry.

¹ Foster, *Noble and Gentle Families*.

1706.	Ditto.	Ditto.	1725.	Edward Haviland.
1707.	Alexander Carswell.			Henry Wood.
	James Chaple.		1726.	John Thomas.
1708.	John Thomas.			Cornelius Marsh.
	John Perry.		1727.	Humphrey Marsh.
1709.	James Gifford.			James Fry.
	Thomas Hull.		1728.	Ditto.
1710.	John Gifford.			Ditto.
	James Fry.		1729-50.	No entry.
1711.	William Cape.		1751.	John Pyne.
	George Southey.			George Spiller.
1712.	George Benison.	—	1752.	Ditto.
				Ditto.
1713.	Richard Southerton.		1753.	John Culverwell.
	John Bunkcum.			John Trood.
1714.	John Thomas.		1754.	Ditto.
	Cornelius Marsh.			Ditto.
1715.	Humphrey Marsh.		1755.	Ditto.
	Thomas Hull.			Ditto.
1716.	John Bunkcum.		1756.	Thomas Marsh.
	Robert Oland.			Richard Bovet.
1717.	George Southey.		1757.	Ditto.
	Hugh Bellett.			Ditto.
1718.	John Perry.		1758.	Ditto.
	George Benison.			Ditto.
1719.	John Southey.		1759.	Ditto.
	Edward Haviland.			Ditto.
1720.	John Thomas.		1760.	Ditto.
	Cornelius Marsh.			Ditto.
1721.	Humphrey Marsh.		1761.	James Baron.
	Matthew Haviland.			John Fforward.
1722.	Robert Oland.		1762.	Ditto.
	Henry Wood.			Ditto.
1723.	Hugh Bellett.		1763.	Ditto.
	George Southey.			Ditto.
1724.	John Perry.		1764.	Edmund Sanday.
	George Benison.			Richard Bovet.

1765.	Ditto.	1794.	Ditto.
	Ditto.		Ditto.
1766.	Richard Bovet.	1795.	Joseph Gifford.
	—		Thomas Martin.
1767.	Ditto.	1796.	Ditto.
	—		Ditto.
1768.	Ditto.	1797.	John Bird.
	—		Thomas Martin.
1769.	Ditto.	1798.	Thomas Wood.
	—		John Carpenter.
1770.	W. P. Thomas.	1799.	William Jones.
	Phil. Gifford.		Thomas Wood.
1771.	Ditto.	1800.	Mark Westron.
	Ditto.		John Carpenter.
1772-78.	No entry.	1801.	Ditto.
1779.	Thomas Marsh.		Ditto.
	Jos ^h Gifford.	1802.	Ditto.
1780.	Jos ^h Gifford.		Ditto.
	—	1803-09.	No entry.
1781.	Jos ^h Gifford.	1810.	Thomas Martin.
	John Wood.		Richard Trood.
1782-86.	Ditto.	1811.	Ditto.
	Ditto.		Ditto.
1787.	Richard Bovet.	1812.	John Duckham.
	W. Jones.		Thomas Martin.
1788.	Ditto.	1813.	Thomas Martin.
	Ditto.		Richard Trood.
1789.	Ditto.	1814.	James Totterdell.
	Ditto.		Mark Westron.
1790.	Richard Bovet.	1815.	James Totterdell.
	Thomas Wood.		William Bird.
1791.	Thomas Wood.	1816.	James Totterdell.
	—		Joseph Yates.
1792.	Richard Bovet.	1817.	James Totterdell.
	Thomas Wood.		Thos. Osbourne Parnell.
1793.	Ditto.	1818.	James Totterdell.
	Ditto.		Thos. Osbourne Parnell.

1819.	F. F. A. Steele. James Totterdell.	1851.	Ditto.
1820.	Ditto. Ditto.	1852.	Ditto. Ditto.
1821.	Ditto. Ditto.	1853.	Thomas Baker. William Gadd.
1822.	James Totterdell. William Procter-Thomas	1854.	Ditto. Ditto.
1823.	Ditto. (clk.). Ditto.	1855.	Ditto. Ditto.
1824.	James Handford. Joseph Yates.	1856-60.	Thomas Baker. Thos. James Bond.
1825.	Ditto. Ditto.	1861.	Frederick Sharland. Frederick White.
1826.	Ditto. Ditto.	1862.	Frederick White. John Edwards.
1827.	Ditto. Ditto.	1863.	William Burridge. John Edwards.
1828-34.	Thomas Handford. Joseph Yates.	1864.	Ditto. Ditto.
1835.	Charles Webber. Thomas Handford.	1865.	Ditto. Ditto.
1836.	John Bellett Shattock. Thomas Handford.	1866.	George S. Fox. John Edwards.
1837.	Ditto. Ditto.	1867.	Ditto. Ditto.
1838.	Ditto. Ditto.	1868.	Ditto. Ditto.
1839.	John Bellett Shattock. John Pope.	1869.	Ditto. Ditto.
1840-48.	Alex. Edward Webber. John Pope.	1870.	J. B. Corner. T. B. Bond.
1849.	Frederick Sharland. Thomas Baker.	1871-76.	Frederick White. Thomas B. Bond.
1850.	Ditto. Ditto.	1877.	George S. Fox. Thomas J. Bond.
1851.	Ditto.	1878.	Ditto. Ditto.

		SEXTONS.
1879.	Ditto.	
	Ditto.	
1880.	Thomas B. Ransom.	1694. William Stone.
	Thomas J. Bond.	1694-1699. Cornelius Pynes.
1881.	Ditto.	1699 —. George Colborn.
	Ditto.	— 1728. John Colborne.
1882.	Ditto.	— 1782. William Shorland.
	Ditto.	Thomas Slade.
1883-89.	William Burridge.	Thomas Slade.
	Thomas J. Bond.	Henry Slade.

TRINITY CHURCH.

The foundation stone of this church was laid 23 Sept., 1828, by Sir T. B. Lethbridge, Bart. This church owes its endowment to the munificence of Rev. William Prockter-Thomas. The foundation stone, which weighed 1600 lbs., bore the following inscription : 'This Foundation Stone of Trinity Church, to be built and endowed by the Rev. W. P. Thomas, LL.B., Patron of the Vicarage of Wellington, was laid by Sir Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, Bart., one of the Knights of the Shire for the Co. of Somerset, on the Twenty-third day of Sept., 1828, and in the ninth year of His most gracious Majesty King George the Fourth.' The building is unornamental.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH.

A new church has just (1889) been erected at Rockwell Green. This building abuts on to the main Exeter road near the water tower. The church consists of a lofty nave, with clerestory 44 feet high to the point of the roof, north and south aisles, chancel, north and south transepts, and a vestry adjoining the north transept. The style of the building is of the Transition Period from the Early English to the Decorated. The walls are built of the local red sandstone, laid in random courses, lined internally with brick and Hambdon Hill stone dressings. The tower, of massive proportions,

is well buttressed at the angles, and consists of three stages, the lower one forming the main entrance; the second is relieved by a handsome clock, and the upper or belfry stage will be pierced with four large windows. The principal dimensions of the Church are as follows:—Nave and aisles, 60 feet long from east to west, the total width of both being 40 feet from north to south. The transepts are 11 feet wide from east to west, and the total width from north to south, including the transepts, is 50 feet. The chancel is 29 feet long and 17 feet 9 inches wide, so that the total length of the church within the walls from east to west is 50 feet. The erection of this Church is mainly owing to the munificence of the Elworthy family.

NONCONFORMIST HISTORY.

Non-parochial records—The Baptists—Joseph Alleine—Organization and Progress—Extracts from the Registers—List of Baptist Ministers—Mural Tablets—The Independents—List of Independent Ministers—The ‘Star of the West’—The Quakers—Visits of John Whiting and George Fox—Other denominations—Visits of Wesley and Whitefield.

THE Nonconformists, or non-parochial records, should by no means be overlooked in a local history; their registers, their methods of worship, and, at times, extravagant fanaticism, may all be studied with interest.

The Baptists.—Wellington, like its more prominent neighbour, Taunton, has been a stronghold of Nonconformity, at any rate, since the middle of the seventeenth century. It is to be regretted that the Baptist is the only body which has preserved any record of incidents and progress, though the church books of their place of worship are by no means complete; but from such as are available I have made a number of extracts, and rendered into a brief narrative the story of the progress of this Dissenting body.

In the *Life of Joseph Alleine*¹ we have instances of the hardships inflicted here upon early Nonconformists by the *Act of Uniformity* and the *Five-Mile-Act*. Alleine, who was minister at Taunton, had been imprisoned for non-observance of the *Act of Uniformity*. After his release, and the passing of the *Five-Mile-Act* (Oct. 31, 1665), Alleine was compelled to take up his residence more than

¹ Stanford, *Life of Alleine*, p. 322.

five miles from Taunton. He chose Wellington, which is seven miles from Taunton. Here in this town he thought himself safe, and continued to preach in a dye-house or some temporary shed. He that was born in a manger might well be preached in a barn, would seem to have been an accepted maxim with the sturdy Puritans. The exact locality of this conventicle cannot now be identified, but it was somewhere within the limits of what was then but a very small town, and was no doubt a very obscure shelter. Alleine was soon found out at Wellington, and a warrant issued for his apprehension. Had he kept silence, and not preached in the dye-house, the same fate would probably have awaited him, for it was urged that the house in which he lodged was not quite five miles from Taunton. This is how his enemies reasoned. They said the parish of Hill Bishops (Bishops Hull) joins that of Taunton, and lies between it and Wellington. Mr. Newton was Minister of both parishes, and Alleine, as Mr. Newton's assistant, was considered to minister over the same parochial extent. The informers probably contended that from the limit of Bishops Hull to the house in which Alleine lodged, on the Taunton side of Wellington, was not quite five miles span.

Organization and Progress.—The first that we hear of the Baptists from their Church books is that there were 'some few of the Baptist persuasion who at certain times had preaching in their own houses.' Though these earnest men were only four in number, they resolved, in the year 1693, to hold a regular meeting in a small cottage at Chilson, which is believed to be the same as still stands on the south side of the Taunton road, a few yards before the straight half-mile called Piccadilly comes in view. The cottage was then occupied by William Haywood, who was one of the four, the other three being John and Elisha Cape and William Tyman.

In 1697, with increased numbers, a house was taken in the town, and, the partitions being knocked down, a weekly service was held. Three years later this house became too small for them, so a

freehold was purchased in South Street, and a chapel built upon the site of the present graveyard. In this primitive place there were no galleries, nor did it contain a Baptistry, but converts were immersed in the river at Rockwell Green. For this ceremony to be performed the ice had at times to be broken, and the candidates had to cross a field before changing their garments.

Until the year 1739 the Wellington Baptist Church had existed as a branch of that at Taunton ; but since 1722 the parent church had developed Unitarian principles, and Wellington desired to gain its freedom. So in 1739 a letter was written from the church at Wellington dismissing themselves.

In 1765 the chapel had to be enlarged, apparently by knocking down a side wall and adding a portion which extended the full width of the present graveyard. During this rebuilding, service was conducted in a malt-house. In 1833 a new chapel was erected upon the present site, and in 1864 the present school buildings were built.

In 1876 the chapel was considerably enlarged and improved. There are very few left who have any recollection of the building as it stood previous to 1833, with its lozenge-shaped upper windows —a quiet, respectable, ugly building, surrounded by sculptured, mossy stones, and supported inside with pillars, monstrous and altogether unlovely. We should not forget the instrumental band, which, from the deep gallery, until about twenty years since, led the singing in the present building before it was altered.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BAPTIST REGISTERS.

The names of those who signed the letter of dismission from Taunton in 1739 were as follows :—

William Stradling (senior), George Perry, John Hallett, Robert Baker, John Parsons, John Hill, John Nethercoat, Francis Cross, Robert Cape, William Stradling (junior), John Day, John Lockier, Rich^d Calway, Rich^d Scott, Joan Banfield, Mary Jenkins, Ann Stradling, Joan Heart, Ann Baker, Joan Gater, Patience Cape,

Dorothy Hill, Eliz. Pyne, Mary Pyne, Hanna Lockier, Grace Baker, Thomazin Baker, Mary Hallett and Hannah England, Allice Warren, Elizth Powell, Sewsan Pyne, Eliz. Pyne.

The foregoing contains the names of the earliest members of the Church, and for this reason is worth preserving.

1740, Nov. 2. Thomas Ingram gave in his experience to ye churches satisfaction.

Nov. 14. Eliz. Chagey gave in her experience to the churches satisfaction—then they were both Baptized.

Nov. 16. They were Joyned to the church.

1744, June 3, Gave Mr John Voysey a Letter of Dismission from this church to the church of Limington.

1747, Feb. 1. We hope we may say this day an happy and a final end is put to those grievous and destructive contentions which have for some time past subsisted between those that did not separate from the church at Taunton, and now in effect the whole congregation is become one church.

1748, May 22. Edward Witheman was withdrawn for disorderly walking, and two messengers, Robert Baker and Thomas Pyne were desired to acquaint him of it.

1774, March 13. An account of the work of God on the soul of Grace Dorman was read to the church, for it was impossible that she should speak, as her deafness made her unable to understand any questions that were asked her: it was before propos'd to the church if they would approve of such a method in her case, when it was readily gave into as hers was a natural incapacity, and they were satisfied with the account she gave of herself; but this is not intended to introduce reading a confession instead of speaking it.

1793, May 5. John Cherry was received by a letter of dismission and recommendation from the church at Broadmead, Bristol, into full Communion with the church.

1795, Oct. 25. Aaron Chorley was suspended on account of his well-known scandalous conduct in trade.

1796, Dec. 31. Departed this life and from the church Militant Mrs. Rebecca Lippincott. She was member of this church 33 years. She is to be particularly remembered by this church for her steady uniform attendance at the house and ordinances, and for her constant, determined, and affectionate regard to the purity and dignity of a religious profession.

1797, Nov. 25. The Rev. Mr. Land, Minister of the Establishment, residing in this town, gave to the poor of our church about 30 Faggots of Wood.

1802, March 7. Ann Bennett, a member of this church, was complained of as Having been frequently and unnecessarily in prophane company.

1804, Oct. 14. J^{no} Mercy was objected to by the church when proposed. It was said that he was liable to the sin of drunkenness.

1807, Jan. 27. Mrs. Elizabeth Lippincott, a member of this church, died this day.

MINISTERS OF THE BAPTIST CHAPEL.

John Voysey, 1742-1744. Mr. Voysey left in 1744 to go to Lymington; and from then, till the following year, there was no regular minister.

Robert Day, M.A., 1745-1791, was the son of a woollen manufacturer at Milverton, and was born July 2, 1720. As a boy he appears to have been fond of retirement and meditation, and when he was but a youth he showed a disposition for the ministry. He studied at Bristol, occasionally preaching at neighbouring churches. The Baptists, in their earlier days, were accustomed to immerse adherents in rivers and ponds both in winter and summer, and Robert Day was baptized in the river at Rockwell Green. Mr. Day's

manner was very attractive, and some influential Dissenters in London endeavoured to get him to come up to the Metropolis. An anecdote is told of one Joseph Chorley overhearing two visitors from London conversing with Mr. Day in his garden, and persuading him on all accounts to return with them to town. Chorley, anxious to retain Mr. Day, and hearing the purport of the conversation, ran off to bring the diaconate together to remonstrate with the strangers. On returning he found them at Mr. Day's gate just ready to mount their horses. 'Now or never,' was Chorley's motto, and in the plenitude of his zeal he laid hold of the horses and preached a sermon to the riders, indignantly bidding them begone, for that 'the robbers of churches were the worst of robbers.'

Robert Day died on April 1, 1791. In the first volume of the *Baptist Register* there appears an elegy on the death of the Rev. R. Day, A.M., in which occur the following lines :—

‘But ah, bright Day no longer shines below !
No longer cheers us in a world of woe !
The radiant Orb no longer gilds the West !
Ah, Wellington ! how sad thy throbbing breast !
The radiant Orb is set, but set to rise
With greater lustre, and in brighter skies !’

Mr. Day had, at any rate, one little foible : he wrote in ‘characters peculiar to himself,’ which no one could read. An entry in the Church books thus charitably refers to this weakness : ‘Our late Minister had often intimated his intention of leaving an address to be read to the Church after his death. On search being made the following address was found amongst his papers, but written in his own Characters, which, being peculiar to himself, no one fully understood. But as our brother John Cape understood most of it he *translated it* in the best manner he could, though unable to make out every word of it ; so that as to the form of it, it evidently appears imperfect and Different from what our Dr Minister intended.’

Cherry, John (1793-1819). During some part of his residence in the town Mr. Cherry conducted a school in addition to his ministerial duties.

Baynes, Joseph (1820-1863). Mr. Baynes claims some particular notice here as a man of eminent piety, and the father of a distinguished family. Born at Liverpool on August 2, 1795, he lost his father when eight years old, and his educational training devolved upon his mother. In his sixteenth year he became a very active member of the Baptist Church in Lime Street, Liverpool, frequently being sent out to the villages and preaching stations round that town. Twice was he stoned out of one benighted village, and a third time escaped very narrowly severe injury. After three years' college training at Bristol under Dr. Ryland he became co-pastor with the Reverend W. Winterbotham, of Shortwood, in Gloucestershire. On May 6, 1819, Mr. Baynes married Miss Ash, of Bristol, a woman who, although then in her teens, combined the excellent qualities of shrewdness, sound common sense, and great prudence, with modesty, and a cheerful disposition. Mrs. Baynes died in January 1868.

In June 1820 Mr. Baynes was invited to Wellington, and after arranging the removal of his goods in a waggon, and himself with his wife going post, he commenced his work in this town on the second Sunday in October 1820.

Mr. Baynes had before him a very lofty ideal of what the minister's vocation involved, and in the preparation of his sermons he was systematic and laborious. From some of his MS. sermons, which are still treasured up by old members of this church, it may be seen how much time it must have taken to write them out, each word being written in large, round, upright characters quite peculiar to himself. Mr. Day and Mr. Baynes each wrote a 'fist' unique in its way.

Mr. Baynes was a great reader, and was continually increasing his store of books 'till every room became a library.' Having

suffered a good deal from bad health he was obliged to resign in 1862, when he went to reside in Bristol, and there died in April 1875.¹ He had four daughters and ten sons, some of whom are noticed in a separate part of this book.²

Humphreys, George Ward, B.A. (1863-). Mr. Humphreys was born in 1829, and educated at the Baptist College, Bristol. He took his degree at University College, London.

TABLETS ON THE WALLS OF THE CHAPEL.

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM DAY HORSEY.

Born May 11th, 1794. Died January 21st, 1875.

Who was for upwards of 41 years an honoured Deacon of this church.

Also of WILLIAM DAY HORSEY, junior.

Born June 14th, 1820. Died December 14th, 1864.

A beloved Deacon of this church.

‘These died in faith.’—Heb. xi. 13.

‘Having served their generation by the will of God.’—Acts, xiii. 36.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN CAPE, GENT.

Twenty-three years Deacon of this church.

He died Jan. 3rd, 1804, aged 63.

This Tablet,

not necessary for preserving the good report he obtained, indulges the tender remembrance his surviving nephew and niece ever must retain of his many virtues.

Near this spot are interred the Remains of the Revd RICHARD HORSEY, Who for twenty-five years usefully and honourably sustained the office of Deacon of this church, and subsequently became the founder and first pastor of the Baptist Church meeting in Silver Street, Taunton.

His zeal for the promotion of the Redeemer’s cause was evinced by his exertions in the neighbouring churches as well as in the scene of his stated labours.

He died March 6th, 1831, aged 74 years.

¹ Memoir of Joseph Baynes. Privately printed.

² See under Personal History.

Also ANNA, his wife,
 Daughter of the Rev^d Robert Day.
 She died March 20th, 1842, aged 87 years.
 Eminent for piety and consistency of Christian character.
 'They rest from their labours and their works do follow them.'

IN MEMORY OF
 WILLIAM CADBURY, ESQUIRE,
 Of Rumhill House,

Who was for forty-one years Deacon of this church.

He rested on the Atonement of Christ
 As the only ground of pardon, purity, and hope ;
 And throughout his whole course evinced
 The reality of this trust ;
 As a Christian, by his humble and devout spirit,
 By his zeal for the honour of God,
 And his love for the Services of His house ;
 As an officer in Christ's Church,
 By his ever active concern for the order of her worship,
 And the purity of her discipline :

He died on Sabbath day morning, November 28th, 1847, aged 68 years.
 This monument is erected by his bereaved widow as a mark of the deep and
 grateful affection she bears to Him who is now with the Lord.

Also a tablet to Miss ELIZABETH CADBURY.¹
 Died Dec. 20, 1829.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE REVEREND JOSEPH BAYNES.

For forty-two years the pastor of this church.

At rest April 25th, 1873, aged 79.

As a preacher he had a singular gift of earnestness and power ; as a pastor he
 was diligent and loving ; and as a Christian he was full of faith and
 of the Holy Ghost, and consecrated all his life to the service
 of that dear Lord and Master whom he loved so well.

'With Christ which is far better.'

This tablet is erected in all reverence and affection by his son,
 Robert Hall Baynes, M.A.

¹ See Baynes, Joseph, *Sermon on the Death of Elizabeth Cadbury*, in Bibliography.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JOHN GAY,

Who died June 21st, 1842, aged 69 years.

He faithfully discharged the office of Deacon of this church twenty-eight years.

His delight in the services of the sanctuary, deep humility, and care for the welfare of the poor, evinced the genuineness of his piety and the sincerity of his attachment to Him, who hath said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my

brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

'He shall in no wise lose his reward.'

Also of MARY, his wife,

Who died December 22nd, 1856, aged 75 years.

'Because I live ye shall live also.'

IN MEMORY OF

THE REV^D ROBERT DAY,

Who eminently shone as an humble Christian and faithful minister of Jesus Christ, which he ascribed to discriminating Grace. He was the first Pastor of this church, which office he piously discharged upwards of forty-four years.

He died the 1st Day of April, 1791.

Aged 70.

There are Monumental Tablets to the ELWORTHYS of Westford, and ROBERT HUMPHREY (1772-1851), and JANE his wife (1779-1865).

ERECTED AS A TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN PARSONS, GENT.,

Many years a Member of this church.

Who died January 10th, 1816. Aged 60 years.

And of ANN, his wife,

Daughter of John Butt, Esq., of Warminster,

Who departed this life, May 24th, 1828. Aged 61.

Also of SARAH, their daughter,

Who became the early victim of consumption, and died July 3rd, 1829.

Aged 20.

'Be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promise.'

THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

The present Independent Church was originally founded as a Presbyterian place of worship by Malachi Blake, a descendant of the famous Admiral Blake. This Malachi lived at Blagdon, in the parish of Pitminster, and was turned out of house and home at the time of the Monmouth Rebellion.¹

When the church was first founded the congregation worshipped in a meeting-house somewhere behind the 'Three Cups' Inn. In the year 1726 Mr. Perry purchased the present site with the view to enable the people to bury in their own ground, and with the understanding that they should erect a place of worship within three years. In 1730 a chapel was opened, of which the Rev. Mr. Berry was the first pastor, and in 1748 the building was enlarged. Further alterations and improvements were carried out in 1815 and 1829. In 1860 it was thought desirable to rebuild the place, and the foundation stone of the present structure was laid by Mr. Henry Fox, May 4th, 1860.

MINISTERS OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

Blake, Malachi.

Berry —.

Darracott, Risdon.—Mr. Darracott was born at Swanage, in 1717. As he shone as a conspicuous figure in the eighteenth century Evangelical Revival, and was, perhaps, the most widely known of any Nonconformist minister resident in the town, it will be necessary to give some particulars of his life. When quite young Darracott was placed at the academy of Dr. Doddridge² at Northampton to prepare himself for a ministerial career. From North-

¹ Murch, *Presbyterian Churches*.

² There was a family connexion between Doddridge and Darracott, though it is a little hard to define. In the Register of the marriages of Richard Doddridge's children kept at Barnstaple Parish Church there is the following: John Darracott and Dorothie Doddridge, May 24, 1596.—Stanford's *Doddridge*, p. 74.

ampton he removed, in 1738, to Chulmleigh, in Devon, and shortly afterwards to Penzance. Later, after a brief residence at Barnstaple, Darracott accepted an invitation to what was then known as the Presbyterian church in Wellington.¹

In 1741, when he was only twenty-four years of age, he came to Wellington in succession to Mr. Berry, who had the reputation of being an excellent man, 'but his ministry had been rather protracted.' Darracott's attractive and striking manner quickly spread his fame to the villages, round the town, and the building, which up to now had only been partially full, filled rapidly. Incidents are reported of some opposition at first to this revival work, and some of the trustees, becoming averse to his preaching, locked up their pews, which fresh comers eagerly burst open and took possession of.

Towards the close of his first year's ministry at Wellington Darracott married Katherine Besley, of Barnstaple, a suitable companion, and a woman of Puritan descent.

Darracott extended his work into several of the neighbouring villages, and the account of his labours at Rockwell Green is worth repeating as giving some idea of a place which we now know under more favourable circumstances. From the character of the inhabitants Rockwell Green was then known as Rogues' Green. Drunkenness, rioting, and, indeed, sin of every description, seemed the only business of the inhabitants, and not one of them was known 'to pretend to prayer or religion under any form.' But after Darracott's preaching 'the traveller heard of an evening the sound of prayer and praise in almost every house. The place lost its former name, and is now called Roe or Row Green.'²

At Langford Budville, once a place of much rowdyism, some violent opposition was once offered the preacher. When accompanied by a number of friends from the town the congregation became so numerous that he stood in the doorway to afford the whole company a hearing. Just before he began to preach, a neighbouring gentle-

¹ Bennett, *Star of the West.*

² *Ibid.* p. 46.

man came up at the head of a mob armed with clubs, swearing and threatening to belabour him if he attempted to preach. Though Darracott assured this gentleman rioter that the house was registered, and that he was under the protection of the law, it only drew forth the heroic declaration of not caring for the law, and the end was the preacher had to desist. Darracott, during his short life, had his full measure of rotten eggs and muscular opposition. When he was with Mr. Doddridge at Northampton, preaching one day in a private house in that neighbourhood, the place was surrounded by tipsy clowns, who hammered in the door, smashed the windows, and begged to be introduced to the minister. Not content with such a measure of violence, these rioters presented a gun at the breast of the householder. This case, in which Darracott was a principal figure, caused considerable commotion.¹

The remarkable progress which his work made is recorded in the letters dated from Wellington and written to Doddridge and to his own sister.

Early in 1750 Wellington was visited by George Whitefield, and though it was but a very brief stay, much sensation was caused. Says Darracott in a letter, 'He (Whitefield) came hither last Saturday was fortnight, with a design of going on to Exeter that day. But we entreated him to stay; at length he inclined too, on which I immediately gave notice that he would preach in the evening, at six o'clock in my meeting-house; and though it was a very rainy day, and the notice but short, the house was so crowded, even at the doors and windows, as at the lowest computation there was a thousand people. Such a crowd, with the profound silence and the lights we had in the house made it solemn. But to see how the people were melted all in tears, was more affecting. He preached from those words, "Beginning at Jerusalem." . . . Mr. Whitefield gave out that he would preach the next day at eight in the morning, and at four in the afternoon, because he would not

¹ Stanford, *Life of Doddridge*, p. 89.

interfere with the public worship anywhere ; and though it was so early next morning there were hundreds stood at the door and windows who could not get in. . . . I only add that our whole town seemed highly delighted with him, and scarce any, openly at least, speak against him.' In a letter to Lady Huntingdon, Whitefield himself says of this visit, 'At Wellington I lay at the house of Mr. Darracott, a flaming successful preacher of the gospel, and who, I think, may justly be stiled the Star in the West.'¹

The following year (1751) another eminent man stayed in the town by reason of his friendship with the preacher. This was Dr. Doddridge, who was on his way to Lisbon for the sake of his health. After combating very bad weather, and consequently bad roads, he arrived at Wellington to see his pupil for the last time.²

In 1757 we read of Darracott's particular endeavours to check profaneness and Sabbath-breaking in Wellington. Every Sunday some of the principal inhabitants perambulated the streets with Reynolds' *Compassionate Address*, which they left in ale-houses and places of evil resort. These means seem to have succeeded, and Darracott writes, 'It is delightful to see the happy effects, places of worship crowded, ale-houses empty, nothing done in the shops of barbers, no idle walkers in the streets, but an air of solemnity through the whole town.'

After three months' illness Darracott died on March 14th, 1759. From his will the following passages will be of interest to the present members of the Church: 'It is my will and desire that I be buried the fourth or fifth day after my decease, about one o'clock in the morning ; that the time be kept secret from all but such as are hereafter mentioned, who are the only persons I desire may attend me to my last bed. My desire farther is, that Mr. Thomas, Thomas Snook, William Parsons, Mr. Cade, Thomas Harford, and Robert Pine, carry me to my grave. Let Mr. Varder

¹ This name, first given him on this occasion by Whitefield, clung to Darracott to the end

² Doddridge died at Lisbon almost immediately after, 26 Oct. 1751.

be sent for to be with them at the time, and let him spend one half hour in prayer in my parlour before they carry me away. At the grave I would have nothing said, but let them commit my flesh to the dust, in cheerful hope of a resurrection to eternal life ; let them all be concerned to give me a joyful meeting at the great day.'

He desired Mr. Fawcett to preach his funeral sermon, but 'I would not have him say a word in praise of me, but tell the people that having loved them, I have loved them to the end.' Mrs. Darracott died at Romsey in 1799, aged eighty-six. She also is buried at Wellington.

Many striking stories are told of the work which Darracott did in Wellington, and of the enthusiasm which his preaching kindled, many walking very long distances to hear his Sunday discourses. A curious case is related of one Dr. Vangnable, a native of Paris and a Roman Catholic, who had been some time in Wellington as a travelling player, and who was greatly influenced by Darracott's preaching.¹

In personal appearance Darracott was slender and rather under the average stature. His countenance was full of animation, benevolence, and happiness, and his looks 'spake all the greatness of goodness.' So animated was he that one said that he looked 'like one who lived on live things !'

Darracott was not a scholar, nor was he a preacher of much depth or width either, but his style was peculiarly adapted to the sphere in which he moved, and there was in the scene of his labours abundant scope for his hard and disinterested work. Besides Doddridge, Darracott had amongst his friends the Countess of Huntingdon, Dr. Walker of Truro, Dr. Haweis, and James Hervey. In the year 1755 he published *Scripture Marks of Salvation*, which was dedicated to the people of Wellington and the adjacent villages. The tract, which is of the sterner Evangelical type, was widely circulated.

The present Sir James Risdon Bennett is a direct descendant of Risdon Darracott.

¹ For further details of this case see Bennett's *Star of the West*, pp. 83, 84.

Field, Jeremiah, died 1767.
Parminter, Richard (1767-1777).
Chadwick, Joseph, 1781-1792 (born at Trull in 1751).
Giles, John (1792-1795).
Parish, — (1795-1800).
Tyerman, Daniel (1800-1807). After leaving Wellington he went to Newport, I.W., and afterwards to Madagascar, where he died.
Bannister, William (1807-1812).
Cuff, John Harcombe (1813-1845).
Winlow, William (1846-1850).
Le Couteur, James (1851-1869).
Davison, Portas Hewett (1870-1873.)
Courtland, William (1873-1879).
Blake, W. Moody (1880-1884).
Joyce, G. W., F.R Hist. S. (1885).

MURAL TABLET.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
 THE REV. JOHN HARCOMBE CUFF,

Who departed this life 29th October, 1845, aged 55 years.

This Tablet was erected by the Church and Congregation Worshipping in this Place, as a Token of the Great Respect and Esteem which they entertained towards their beloved Minister,

Who, for more than Thirty-three years,

Faithfully and Successfully discharged his Pastoral Duties among them,
 And in his private and public life afforded a practical illustration
 of the Great Truths of the Christian Religion.

‘Mark the Perfect Man, and behold the upright; for the end of that Man is Peace.’—Psalm 37, verse 37.

THE FRIENDS’ MEETING-HOUSE.

Quakerism in Wellington dates from the time of George Fox, who, as we shall show from his ‘Journal,’ visited the town several

times and preached here. The first meeting-room appears to have been upon the site of the present one, and the burial-ground is most of it as old. The persecution which the Quakers were subjected to was, perhaps, more severe than that suffered by any other sect, and here in Somersetshire the Friends suffered greatly, not only from the violence of organized mobs, but from the severity of ecclesiastical demands made upon them. A poor journeyman, a Quaker of this town, was actually subpoenaed in the Exchequer for a demand of twopence-halfpenny.¹

John Whiting gives an account of one George Russel, of Burlescombe, 'an honest, innocent man, who died in his eightieth year a prisoner at Exeter for his testimony against tythes.'² In the same 'Journal' we read (p. 218), 'This summer Brother Bowles of London, coming down again into the country, I went with him, in the 7th month down into Cornwall, by Bridgwater and Taunton, having meetings by the way at Wellington, on the lower side of our county, where is now a large Meeting.'

In 1692 two women, Sarah Cheevers and Alice Helliar, were badly treated near the town, and sent to gaol till they could find sureties for 'good behaviour.' In this disturbance Edward Clarke, of Chipley, seems to have been magistrate, and acted with some tyranny. These women had been holding a Meeting at the old Quakers' Meeting-house, which is now turned into cottages, between Milverton and Wiveliscombe. In the Churchwardens' Accounts for the year 1728 there is an entry,—

paid for a warrant for y^e Quakers that refus'd to pay their rates, 1s. 0.

George Fox passed through Wellington in 1656, but he does not say definitely if he had a meeting at Wellington.

'We passed from Exeter through Collumpton and Taunton, visiting friends, and had Meetings amongst them.'³

¹ Tanner, *Lectures on the Friends*, 1858.

² Whiting's *Persecution Expos'd*, 1715, p. 27.

³ Fox, *Journal*, ed. Armistead, 1852, Vol. i. p. 268.

In 1663 Fox again enters in his 'Journal'—‘After the Meeting we passed to Collumpton and Wellington, for we had appointed a Meeting five miles off, where we had a large one at a butcher’s house, and a blessed meeting it was. . . . There had been very great persecution in that country and town a little before, insomuch that some friends questioned the peaceableness of our Meeting. Friends told us how they had broken up their Meeting by warrants from the justices, and how by their warrants they were required to carry Friends before the justices ; and Friends bid them “carry them then.” The officers told Friends, “they must go ;” but Friends said, nay ; that was not according to their warrants, which required them to carry them. Then they were forced to hire carts, and waggons, and horses, and to lift Friends into their waggons and carts to carry them before a justice. When they came to a justice’s house, sometimes he happened to be from home ; and if he were a moderate man he would get out of the way, and then they were obliged to carry them before another, so that they were many days carting and carrying friends up and down from place to place. And when afterwards the officers came to lay their charges for this upon the town the townspeople would not pay it, but made them bear it themselves ; which broke the neck of their persecution there for that time. The like was done in several other places till the officers had shamed and tired themselves, and then they were glad to give over.¹

Thomas Story enters 1722, July 5th. ‘The week-day meeting at Wellington falling in course on the 5th, being the fourth of the week, I went thither, it being the road to Exon ; and tho’ but small, yet was open and comfortable ; some reputable neighbours also being there. That night I went a mile distant from the town.’²

¹ Some interesting particulars of Quaker life in Wellington will be found in *Memoirs of Maria Fox*, London, 1846. M. F. was the wife of Samuel Fox, one of the many sons of Thomas Fox of Wellington, and the father of Joseph Hoyland Fox, Esq., J.P. See also the *Journals of Daniel Wheeler*, 1842 ; *John Griffith*, 1779 ; *Mary Capper*, 1847 ; and *Memoirs of Catherine Phillips*, 1797.

² Thomas Story, *Journal*, p. 640, Newcastle, 1747.

John Churchman, a Quaker from America, mentions having a meeting here in 1750.¹

The Wesleyans, the Bible Christians, and the Plymouth Brethren each have places of worship in the town.

Deck, James George, eldest son of John Deck, of Bury St. Edmunds, was born in 1802, educated for the army, and became an officer in the Indian Service. Retiring from the army, and having joined the Plymouth Brethren sect, he undertook the charge of the Wellington 'meeting.' In 1852 he went abroad and settled in New Zealand. Mr. Deck is well known as a hymn writer.

WESLEY AND WHITEFIELD.

It was the custom in the last century, and, indeed, much later, for religious people to keep a 'Journal' or diary in which they noted down daily occurrences. The Quakers have from their commencement been very prone to this practice, and from the immense number of 'Journals' which their bibliography yields, an almost invaluable amount of topographical knowledge may be gleaned. Wesley, perhaps, brought the practice to highest perfection, and during a life of ceaseless toil he found time to register not only his proceedings, but his thoughts, his studies, and his occasional remarks upon men and places. Nearly the same may be said of George Whitefield.

There will be found below the dates when these two great revivalists came into the town and neighbourhood, together with any extracts from their 'Journals' which are of interest. A visit from Wesley or Whitefield when the Evangelical Revival was at its height was an event of no small importance.

In 1748 Wesley passed through the town, but does not appear to have stayed here.²

1750. Sept. 3. 'About noon I preached at Hillfarrance. Three

¹ John Churchman, *Gospel Labours*, London, 1829.

² Wesley, *Journal*, 1827, Vol. ii. p. 78.

or four boors would have been rude if they durst, but the odds against them was too great.'

He visited Uffculme in 1751, and in 1753-4-5 was in this neighbourhood again.

In 1760 and 1762 he paid his next visits, preaching in many neighbouring places.

1766. Sept. 22. 'I preached in the street at Culmstock, to almost all the inhabitants.'

In the years 1768-69-70 and 1774 there were further visits, which are mentioned in the 'Journal.'

1775. 'Sept. 10 (Sunday). I came to Wellington in an acceptable time, for Mr. Jesse was ill in bed; so that if I had not come there could have been no service, either morning or evening. The church was moderately filled in the morning. In the afternoon it was crowded in every corner; and a solemn awe fell on the whole congregation, while I pressed that important question, "What is a man profited?" &c.'

In 1779 and 1782 he visited the town or neighbourhood.

1785. Sept. 2. 'Opened a little preaching-house at Wallington (*sic*). At noon I preached in an ancient venerable building, once belonging to a Lord Chief Justice. It is oddly called Cat-hanger. Having a stupid people to deal with I spoke exceeding plain; and I think many of them, even Somersetshire farmers, felt as well as heard.'¹

In August 1789, Wesley visited this part for the last time.²

Whitefield.—Beyond what has already been said in the sketch of Darracott, about the visits of Whitefield, there may be added the following:—

1743, Oct. 23 (Sunday morning), 'I preached again in the Meeting-house,³ and, in the evening, to seven thousand in the field.'⁴

In September 1744, August 1749, and in 1751, Whitefield paid further visits to the town.

¹ Wesley, *Journal*, 1827, vol. iv. p. 311. ² Ibid. vol. iv. p. 455. ³ Darracott's.

⁴ Whitefield was then only twenty-eight years old.

MODERN HISTORY.

'Tis sixty years since'—Coaching—Sanitary improvements—Punishments and crime—Bread riots—The Duke—The Monument—The Coronation and Jubilee Festivals—Constitution of the Town—Population—Turnpike Act—Masonic, &c.—The principal Inns—Public Officers.

SOME account of the condition and general appearance of the town, from the early part of the present century up to a period within the memory of all, will now be attempted.

Could a traveller, familiar with the approaches to Wellington at the beginning of this century, now re-visit the town, he would find that the turnpike road had considerably changed in its course. Up to about fifty years ago the main Taunton road, instead of skirting the grounds of Drake's Place, cut through the private surroundings of that house, entering them by the old oak tree, and took a direction which brought it out upon the corner of the churchyard and the entrance gates of Drake's Place, as they now stand.

Just here, at the top of the town, there was a turnpike gate (removed in 1841),¹ and a well, which many a thirsty tramp found very welcome, and were it open many a thirsty soul would to this day rejoice over it. From this well the water for that part of the town was drawn.

The churchyard was not quite so near the road as at present, for a row of cottages (removed in 1827) occupied a portion of the site behind the wall and railings as these now are placed. In Church Lane, originally called Tower Lane, there stood two

¹ The last toll-keeper's name was Bartlett.

cottages upon the site of the garden of Windwhistle House. But these were burnt down about twenty years ago by the firing of a tar-barrel which was being conveyed to Church Fields for a bonfire on November 5. Buckwell was largely taken up with stage-waggons ; and at the two houses at the top the principal school of the town was conducted by Mr. Beesley.

Getting more into the centre of the town the noise of the weaver's loom was frequently to be heard in the houses of some of the courts and alleys. For generations the same industry had been carried on in much the same way.

At the corner of South Street and Fore Street there was a chemist's shop. On the opposite side, at the corner of South and High Streets, Mr. Yates kept a china shop. In Fore Street a draper's shop partly occupied the site of Messrs. Haddon & Son. Other houses in Fore Street were kept by Parsons, an ironmonger ; Coleman, a chandler ; Furze, a tinman ; Rowe, a tailor ; Brock, a hatter ; Baker, a maltster ; Sercombe, a hairdresser ; and Fawcett, a toy dealer.

In the centre of the town, on the open space in front of the Market, was a house where a banking business was carried on by Mr. Wood. Upon the site of the Market Place itself Mr. Liddon kept a chemist's shop, and adjoining this was a public-house called 'The Market-House Inn,' kept by a man named Twose.

The public-houses and beer-shops in the town were much more numerous than at present. There was 'The Lamb,' which stood in Lamb Court, a passage which runs from Fore Street parallel with South Street. 'The George' was in Fore Street, and last kept by Mr. James ;¹ 'The Fox and Goose' in South Street, on the site of the house now (1889) occupied by Rev. H. A. Tanner ; 'The Bell,' in South Street, stood where Hartnell's basket shop now (1889) is. It was kept by Thomas Piercy, and used as a sort of club and house of call by the woolcombers. Behind 'The Bell'

¹ The 'George' appears as early as 1664.

was a pig-market. ‘The New George’ was in Mantle Street, and ‘The Dewdrop’ near Champford Lane. The retentive memory of an old inhabitant enables me to give the following doggrel lines which were exposed for some time in the window of ‘The Dewdrop’ :—

‘*The Dewdrop Inn* shall sink the *Ship*,
And smash the *George* close by ;
Shall blow the *Cottage* in the air,
And drink the *Three Cups* dry.’

In the court in High Street of the same name there was ‘The Red Lion,’ kept by a very drunken man named George Fry.

Some inns have changed their names ; thus what we now know as ‘The London Inn’ was once called ‘The Valiant Soldier.’ The reason why this alteration was made is worth repeating. A wag named Chorley, who, in a rough way, was clever with a brush, one night got up to the sign of ‘The Valiant Soldier,’ upon which was painted a representation of the Duke of Wellington, and sketched thereon a monkey. The ridicule which arose from this bit of practical joking almost compelled the proprietor to change the name. The temporary unpopularity of the Duke was probably at the bottom of it. ‘The White Horse,’ a very old inn, was formerly known as ‘The Swan.’

Coaching.—The fact that Wellington is situated upon the main Exeter road is sufficient in itself to assure us of the important part it played in the old coaching days. It was an excellent advertisement for any town so situated : Members of Parliament, judges on circuit, men of title and position, and Royalty themselves, were certain to pass, either post or by coach, through any town which lay on one of the main trunk roads.

Until the opening of the railway, in 1844, as many as thirty-two coaches and stage-waggons (including two mails) passed through Wellington daily. For the coaches, the two principal places for stopping and changing horses were ‘The White Hart’ and ‘The

Squirrel.' The old 'White Hart' has undergone so much alteration during the past fifty years that no old post-boy would recognise it now. The house has now been divided into two, and what constituted the inn in the coaching days was double the length of the present house. This can be easily understood by a glance from High Street, when the roof and long even row of old-fashioned windows, now doing service for the two houses, are recognisable at once as originally belonging to but one house. A wide archway pierced through the centre of the building, and led to the back of the house and the stables. These last, which have now been turned into cottages, were very extensive, and testify to the amount of posting which must have been done at this house. The broad oak staircase and wide landings remain just the same as in days gone by, and several of the windows, by their heavy framework, suggest considerable age.

'The Squirrel,'¹ the principal posting-house to-day, was also very largely patronised by the coaches, although it is probable that 'The White Hart,' both from its position as the first house from London, and from the wide pavement in front, had the preference. The halcyon days of 'The White Hart' were when the posting was done by Messrs. Butler, father and son in succession, and Mr. Fackrall. Elsewhere will be found a list of the proprietors of 'The White Hart,' and other inns. The arrival of the mail-coaches was a matter of great interest each day, crowds of tradesmen, as well as children, watching passengers alight and seeing the mails delivered up. Frequently, upon the arrival of the mail, High Street and Fore Street were so blocked as to be almost impassable. The coachmen, guards, and post-boys, came in for a large amount of hero-worship, being considered exceptionally well-informed men. The names of the principal coachmen were Fidler, Ashton, Stephens, and Barrett. The guards of the mails always wore red coats. The names of those last remembered were Lindsay and Moor. The post-boys

¹ The earliest reference I have to 'The Squirrel' is in the Churchwardens' Accounts of 1686.

were a very droll lot of men, who took considerable pride in their attire, making themselves as ‘ horsey ’ in appearance as possible. The names of those best recollected were Leat, Lapthorne, and Stradling.

The principal coaches which came through the town were as follows:—The Royal Mail arrived from London in about 19½ hours, every afternoon at four, and then proceeded on to Exeter. The return Mail passed through here from Exeter in the morning about nine. Up to 1824 the ‘ North Devon Telegraph ’ arrived from London every morning at about nine; but after that date the proprietors quickened the pace, and the journey was done in the same time as the mail. Several coaches came through for Exeter every afternoon much the same hour, and a midnight coach also journeyed to the same place.

From Bath there were two coaches daily, except Sundays.

From Birmingham two coaches daily.

From Bristol the ‘ Royal Devon ’ daily.

Others were ‘ The Times,’ ‘ The Traveller,’ ‘ The Subscription,’ and ‘ The Devonshire.’

The following advertisement from the *Taunton Courier* of March 17, 1824, directs attention to a coach which passed through Wellington on its way to Ilfracombe:—

OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PUBLIC,
PARTICULARLY TO THE GENTRY,

Who are most respectfully informed that a LIGHT POST COACH, called

THE BRITISH TRAVELLER,

Will leave the ‘ PLUME OF FEATHERS,’ Wine Street, Bristol, every day, for Barnstaple, at seven o’clock in the morning, and return from thence every day at eleven o’clock in the morning, through Cross, Bridgwater, Wellington, Tiverton, and South Molton, etc. . . .

THE BRITISH TRAVELLER COACH, for Exeter, Plymouth, Devonport, and all parts of the West of England, leaves ‘ The Plume of Feathers ’ as usual.

Performed by Clift, Congdon, & Co.

The cost of travelling by coach was, of course, considerable, and only the wealthy could afford to do so. The poorer classes were obliged to go by stage waggons, and a large business was done in this way by Chadwell, a waggon proprietor here in the town. The business of this man extended far beyond the immediate neighbourhood, and he with Brice of Taunton, did the principal carrying between Bristol and Exeter. Chadwell's waggons, loaded high, and to which were harnessed six or more horses, are familiar to many of the old people in the neighbourhood. The stabling of this firm was on the site of the present Wesleyan Chapel. Another waggon proprietor was named Pitt; his yard was at the top of Buckwell. Stage waggons going a journey with a destination beyond the town stopped at the 'Eight Bells' or at 'The Ship.' At this last-named inn there was a great deal of posting done, though no mention is made of it in the road-books and itineraries.

Travelling 'post' was largely adopted by the wealthy and independent. Mr. C. H. Fox speaks of his grandfather going post from Wellington to London, and the journey occupying two days. This method was very expensive and people so travelling were much more at the mercy of highwaymen than the stage and mail coach passengers who were protected by a guard armed with a loaded pistol.

It is customary for people to speak of the danger of railway travelling being much greater than that incurred by coach travelling. But it would be found in comparing the number of passengers who travel at the present day with the number who travelled sixty or seventy years ago that the larger percentage of fatalities and accidents would be apportioned to the old method of travel. A drunken coachman, a broken axletree, a jibbing horse, or a slippery road, was quite sufficient to cause a serious accident, and that such did frequently occur there is ample evidence. The following are taken from the newspapers of the day, and are only a few of the many which occurred in or near the town in a period of a year or so.

‘On Wednesday evening, the Bath mail coach to Exeter having stopped at Wellington to enable a lady to alight, the coachman got off to take out her luggage, and, in so doing, a portmanteau struck the hind quarters of one of the horses, which took fright, and the whole of them breaking from the restraint of the coachman, who on the ground held the reins, set off at a furious rate.

‘The turnpike gate-keeper seeing them advance without the coachman shut the gate, but the violence of the concussion occasioned by the horses running against it, bore down the gate, and they continued their impetuous career for two miles. While ascending a hill near Beam Bridge they were observed by a man driving a waggon, who with great promptitude, drew his waggon across the road. The coach was thus thrown against a bank, and the pole horses, having fallen from the force of the contact, no further mischief ensued. The coachman and guard on horseback overtook the mail when it stopped. Had not the progress of the horses been thus arrested they would probably have proceeded to the ‘White Bull,’ a mile further on, where they are usually changed, and then spontaneously halted. Happily no mischief was done. The three ladies inside were not conscious of the danger they had escaped until the coach was stopped.’¹

‘On Monday morning last, about half-past ten, as the Bath and Exeter mail was proceeding on its journey to London, the leaders were suddenly attacked at Beam Bridge, by the kicking of a stallion, which was being led by a servant of Mr. Baker, of Ash, to whom the horse belonged. The mail was in consequence upset, and Mr. Roberts, an attorney, from Cornwall, had his ankle dislocated and his leg shockingly broken by the fall; another outside passenger, who lives at Tiverton, dislocated his shoulder, and was otherwise very severely injured. The coachman (Willis), who is totally exempt from all blame, was sadly bruised, and Larkins the guard escaped with but little injury. Mr. Roberts was taken to the “White Hart” at Wellington, where he received the most prompt and humane attention. The injured gentleman died a few days afterwards.’²

Mr. Fox mentions that his father used to ride once a fortnight to Exeter and back, starting about six in the morning and returning about the same hour in the evening. On one occasion,

¹ *Taunton Courier*, July 25, 1827.

² *Ibid.* April 14, 1830.

when bringing home money from Exeter, he was pursued by highwaymen and would have been robbed had not his horse been exceptionally swift and of great endurance. The pursuit was maintained from the 'Lamb' to the 'Red Ball,' and on arriving at the last-named place Mr. Fox was able to take refuge from his pursuers.

In 1843, when the railway was opened as far as the 'White Ball' tunnel, there was naturally a good opening for posting between that place and towns beyond. This was supplied by the 'Squirrel' until the line was extended beyond the limits of the neighbourhood.

The following year (1844) the railway was completed as far as Exeter, and opened on May 1.

Sanitary Improvements.—From a sanitary point of view very great improvements have been effected. The terrible epidemics which occurred are clearly apparent from the registers.¹ Open cesspools and drains stank in the nostrils at all parts of the town. In South Street there was a large open drain from the school down to Bulford Lane which the path now covers. Between Lippincott Villas and the school there stood a row of cottages the drains of which emptied themselves into this filthy ditch. In Tradehouse Lane there was the same. A similar ditch ran down Millway to the opening into Church Fields, and there was a large stinking pool near the centre of the town where the principal streets meet. There were no flagstones to form pavements, but the sidewalks were paved with cobbled stones.² Many of the houses were thatched.

Punishments and Crime.—The stocks were originally placed at the end of the shambles in Fore Street, and from there were removed about 1810 and placed inside the railings of the churchyard in Church Lane. George Fry, the keeper of the Red Lion, and

¹ The Registers of last century furnish some terrible facts as to the state of the town at that time. And in the present century there was in 1828 an epidemic of smallpox, and in 1873 of typhoid fever.

² In 1831 tenders were invited for laying the footpaths with flags.

Annie Furzelands, a drunken woman, were the last that were so punished. Great excitement was caused by seeing these two characters so situated, for the method of punishment had become very occasional.

In 1801 nine men were hung at Stone Gallows for stealing bread.¹ It is commonly reported that these poor wretches were conveyed to the gallows in a waggon, each one having to sit upon his coffin. Much about the same time another culprit was hung on the same gallows,² for having shot a friend at a game of cards.

At the commencement of the present century smuggling and the sale of contraband liquors was the most ordinary offence in this neighbourhood. In searching through the newspapers the number of cases is quite surprising, especially as Wellington is not situated near any port or coast town.

Burglary was much more common than at the present day, and the ingenious tricks of itinerant beggars were never more successfully carried out.

‘A gang of about twelve thieves were present at Wellington Fair, but one of them being apprehended, the remainder lost heart and left the town.’³

Under the Market Place there was a cell called Little Ease, which was used for the confinement of prisoners waiting to be brought before the magistrates. It can be understood that Little Ease was, as its name implied, a place of small comfort, with neither light nor air that was fit to breathe. Dr. Toulmin,⁴ who probably knew the conditions of the Wellington Little Ease, speaking of a similar place at Taunton, says: ‘So horrid and shocking were these receptacles, that confinement was dreaded in them beyond measure, and some overpowered chiefly by the horror of the place,

¹ ‘There is now grazing at Pool Farm, near this town, one of the horses that drew nine of the Taunton rioters to execution at Stone Gallows on the Wellington roads. The animal was 33 years old last spring, and even now is occasionally used in husbandry.’—*Taunton Courier*, July 29, 1829.

² Stone Gallows was so called from a large boulder stone which lay close to the scaffold by the side of the road.

³ *Taunton Courier*, April 2, 1828.

⁴ Toulmin, *History of Taunton*.

had laid violent hands upon themselves, unable to endure their situation.'

The constables carried short truncheons mounted with a crown and short spikes. The Officer of Peace was frequently exposed to the danger of having his hand wrenched off owing to the leather loop by which the truncheon was held. A navvy, after being belaboured, might retaliate, and hold the constable at his mercy by seizing the truncheon and twisting it until the leather tightened round the wrist sufficient to dislocate it.

As a curious item of social history a loose character, named Sal Parsons, for being too intimate with a soldier was ducked in a dirty pond. The soldier, too, had his measure of punishment by being flogged in the town.

Bread Riots.—In 1846 some serious riots were occasioned by the high price of bread. Certain farmers in the neighbourhood who farmed a broad acreage of land, and whose garners were filled with grain, refused to dispose of their stores to the public at a less price than a guinea a bushel. The working classes became incensed. Large numbers left the factories and joined with others in seeking redress by force. A day or so previously some slight skirmishing between the yeomanry and the malcontents had taken place at Taunton, and the appearance of a yeoman here at the 'King's Arms Inn' was the signal for an outbreak. A large body of rioters proceeded up South Street, smashing the bakers' windows on their way. Upon reaching Ford Farm a formidable body had collected. A wood-rick was then fired, and a dog which showed fight was instantly killed. The proprietor of the farm appeared at one of the windows with a gun and threatened to fire upon his assailants if they did not retire. They demanded that he should bring his corn into Wellington and sell it at seven shillings a-bushel. After unsuccessfully trying to break in at the back door, the rioters went round to the front of the house and smashed in all the windows. They then returned back through South Street, and were met by Mr. W. Prockter-Thomas and Mr. Sylvanus Fox, who promised that, if they

would disperse, a meeting should be called on the following Monday to consider the question. The meeting was convened, and an amicable settlement was temporarily arrived at.

A fresh outbreak, however, occurred, when a farmer from Clayhidon, who was driving into the town with a load of butter, met some dissatisfied folk, who caused him to retreat. The mob, seeing the timidity of the farmer, some hundred or more of them followed him to a house more than a mile from the town, to which, with all speed, he had taken refuge behind bolted doors. Undaunted, the rioters burst open the doors, and brought the horse, cart, and contents back to the Market Place, demanding that the butter should be sold at a very low figure. There was nothing for it but to give in, and two constables (James Cape and Colley Winter) were appointed by the magistrates to sell the butter at the popular price.

While these disturbances lasted soldiers were quartered at Heywood, near Nynehead, and all the principal inhabitants of the town were sworn in as special constables at Mr. Fred White's office.

The Duke of Wellington.—The connexion of the Iron Duke with the place from which he took his title is very slender. This, however, is no anomaly, and should create no surprise. The Peerage is full of the names of families, the representative members of which bear titles which have been selected for reasons of euphony only. In the year 53 George III., an Act of Parliament was passed entitled, ‘An Act for granting a sum of money for purchasing an estate for the Marquis of Wellington in consideration of the eminent and signal services performed by the said Marquis of Wellington to his Majesty and the public.’ It was enacted that a sum not exceeding £100,000 should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund, and that certain trustees¹ appointed should lay out the money in manors, lands, and tenements.

¹ Their names were Charles Abbott, Speaker of the House of Commons; Robert Banks, Earl of Liverpool; Nicholas Vansittart, William Wellesley Pole, and Hon. Gerald Valerian Wellesley, D.D.

In obedience to the directions of this Act the Duke became possessed of the Lordship of the Manor of Wellington Borough with hereditary rights.

The above explains to some extent the connexion of the Duke of Wellington with this town since 1813, but it throws no light on the reasons which led him, in 1809, to select Wellington for his title.

The Duke visited the town in 1814, and was publicly received.

The Monument.—In 1815 some few gentlemen of the neighbourhood expressed a desire of setting on foot a subscription for the purpose of erecting a monument to perpetuate the remembrance of the military exploits of the Iron Duke. With this purpose in view a meeting was held at ‘The White Hart Inn’ on September 5, 1815, presided over by Mr. Sanford. It was resolved that, ‘to perpetuate the memory of the military achievements of his Grace the Duke of Wellington a monument be raised on the highest point of Blackdown, near the town of Wellington, and upon the estate of the noble Duke.’

A committee of influential county men was formed, and the subscriptions were solicited partly by means of a circular, from which the following is extracted:—

‘The local advantages offered by the elevated site of Blackdown for the intended purpose is not less happily in union with the respect designed towards the noble Duke on the occasion, than it is with the national object of exhibiting to the inhabitants of a vast tract of country an impressive Record of those Deeds of Glory which, in destroying the most formidable despotism in Europe, have elevated the national character of our country into unprecedented splendour. . . .’

On January 19, 1816, a meeting was held in London at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James’s Street, to discuss the same subject. The foundation stone of the first monument was laid on the 20th October, 1817. Its erection was not completed for

more than a year afterwards, and the structure was in a large measure rebuilt on a more worthy scale in 1860.

The following note¹ from the Duke of Wellington to Lord Somerville respecting the monument shows that the great Duke approved of the erection of that memorial.

Paris, February 1st, 1816.

MY DEAR LORD SOMERVILLE,

I received by your last post your letter of the 22nd, and I assure you that I am much flattered by the measures which have been adopted with a view to erect a monument for the Battle of Waterloo on the estate at Wellington.

I have received Mr. Kinglake's report. I have so little knowledge of my own affairs, and possessing no former report to which I can refer, I can form no opinion of it. My opinion has long been that I have either too much or too little property in the neighbourhood, and I will readily as depends on me follow your advice in increasing it either by way of enclosure. I shall be obliged to you if you will give such directions as you may think necessary respecting the same.

Ever, my dear Lord Somerville,

Yours most sincerely,

WELLINGTON.

The Coronation and Jubilee Festivals.—The amount of public spirit and enthusiasm which was shown at the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838 resulted in an imposing ceremony and display of loyalty. As soon as the day of rejoicing was fixed a notice was issued by the Rev. W. P. Thomas, and it was decided by the principal inhabitants to have a public dinner provided for the poor in the streets, and this to be preceded by a procession.

The day previous to the one appointed for the ceremony was busily occupied in decorating the town from one end to the other, and in preparing tables and seats for the dinner in front of the Market Place. The procession formed in the 'Shoulder of Mutton' field took up the following order:—

¹ Kindly sent me by Mr. R. A. Kinglake.

Maids of Honour.

Eight Yeomen in advance.
 Portreeve.
 Constables.
 Band.
 Magistrates.
 Principal inhabitants.
 Sceptre Bearer. Crown Bearer.
 The Queen
 Drawn by four greys.
 Train Bearers.
 Young Men.
 Farmers.
 Agricultural Labourers.
 Smiths and Braziers.
 Wool-sorters.
 Slubbers.
 Weavers.
 Tailors.
 Masons and Plasterers.
 Carpenters.
 Painters, Plumbers, and Glaziers.
 Cabinet Makers.
 Carriers.
 Cordwainers.
 Societies (in order of seniority).

Maids of Honour.

The Yeomen, who headed the procession, walked two abreast, commanded by Lieut. Blake; the first two held pistols in their hands, and those who followed each carried a drawn sword.

The wool-sorters were represented by a man in advance with a drawn sword, followed by a boy carrying in his arms a lamb. These were succeeded by a swain and shepherdess of the eighteenth century attired in a costume of attractive simplicity.

The Queen (a young woman of the town) was drawn in a chariot by four grey ponies, and her train was supported by twenty-four bearers. The wool-combers paraded their patron saint, Bishop Blaize, who wore his mitre and rochet, and was attended by three boys on each side dressed in white clerical gowns and caps.

The various trade guilds were entertained at their club houses, and the gentlemen of the town dined at the 'White Hart.'

With the foregoing we may compare some few details of the celebration of the Jubilee in the town on June 21, 1887. It had been decided by a committee of gentlemen to recognise the occasion with loyal festivity, and to give a public dinner to the poor people. The town was paraded during the morning by a procession maintaining the following order:—

Two Trumpeters as Heralds.
W. Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry.
The Wellington Volunteers.
The Clergy of all Denominations.
Churchwardens.
Overseers and Assistant Overseers.
Portreeve and Borough Officers.
The Fire Brigade.

These were succeeded by trophies and representations of trade and agriculture.

During the day the town presented a very gay appearance, triumphal arches being erected in every street, and almost every house being tastefully decorated. Towards the evening the streets were brilliantly illuminated, and later in the day many hundreds went up on to the Monument Hill to witness the lighting of the beacons and the illumination of the monument itself. A huge bonfire was lit at the base of the pillar, and must have been visible from scores of towns and villages. This, however, was but one of the many

blazing fires that could be seen in the neighbourhood. From the Wellington pillar the huge fire on Dunkerry Beacon was clearly visible, as also those on Cothelstone, Wills Neck, Crowcombe, and St. Audries. The sight was indeed one of remarkable effect, and will not soon be forgotten by the people of this neighbourhood. Great excitement was evinced throughout the whole day in the town and its surroundings.

Miscellaneous.—At the close of the last century many towns had French prisoners quartered upon them. Here, at Wellington, a goodly number were lodged in Millway, at Mount Pleasant. The gardens in front of the terrace of houses then used to form a court abutting on to the road. A few people still living remember seeing poor prisoners endeavouring to supplement their short commons by offering for sale to passers-by nicknacks and trifles made of wood or bone. It is said that they were often found carving the bones of the meat which had been served out to them.

The ignorance which prevailed in the town fifty or more years ago is quite astounding, but may be verified from the Marriage Registers. In the first year of the century there appears in the Registry the name of John Shurford, 'a scribbler.' Many will remember the name of 'Turney' Woodford, an old wool-comber, who lived in a cottage, the site of which is now occupied by the Devonshire Oil Stores. Woodford was the learned man of the town, and, besides acting as legal adviser to a large number of his fellows, he also wrote all their letters. 'Turney' Woodford was very fond of literature, and was, in his day, regarded as quite an oracle.

Another scribe, named Clarke, lived next to the almshouses, and did a good deal of letter-writing for others.

The very common custom practised in chapels of giving out one verse of a hymn at a time arose, no doubt, from the inability of the congregation to read their hymn-books. Shops, too, had signs over

the door instead of the name of the proprietor, so that servants and others who could not read might be directed to the 'Half Moon' or the 'Golden Canister.'

Pies, principally of fruit, were cried through the streets and sold a good deal. Lackington gives an amusing account of his own experiences as a pie-vendor in the streets of the town. One John Pinney, also, was a pieman, crying,—

‘Awake, ye maidens ! rise,
And make your Christmas pies ;
Make them good and make no haste,
And let the bellman have a taste.’

Great excitement was caused in 1803 on account of Napoleon's threatened invasion. A wealthy gentleman residing in the town had a spacious Coburg built in which, should the danger have become imminent, he had resolved to drive his family and household goods to a remote village.

On September 28, 1832, a vestry meeting was held to take into consideration the propriety of purchasing and keeping a horse and cart for the purpose of *enabling the Assistant Overseers to perform the office of Scavenger.*

When Mr. E. A. Sanford came of age a bullock was roasted in Nynehead Park.

In the second week of May, 1827, three persons died near Wellington whose united ages amounted to 268 years.

The following are from the presentments of the Court-Leet:—

1815. 'We present those persons who are in the habit of breaking up the pavement before their houses at the fair and do not get it afterwards repaired as being extremely dangerous.'

1817. 'We present the inhabitants of South Street or elsewhere who suffer their ducks to run over the town, dirting the water, &c.'

'We present all persons who are in the habit of throwing out their ashes and other nuisances into the streets.'

INDUSTRIES.

*The Woollen Manufacture—Bricks, Tiles, and Pottery—
Tanning—The Market Company—The Trading Community
about 1800.*

WOOLLEN Manufacture.—The settlement of expert Flemings in various parts of the country, encouraged by Edward III., first gave a start to the weaving industry in the West of England.

It is difficult to trace definitely the date when mills were first set up in this town, but we have a street which from time immemorial has been known by the name of Millway, and the earliest Parish Registers and Churchwardens' accounts contain many and frequently recurring references to woofers, sergemakers, and weavers.

The journal of a very observant lady, written two hundred years ago, contains probably a very accurate account of the condition of the woollen industry in this town. Miss Fiennes took several tours on horseback through the provinces, and during one of her progresses came through Wellington.

‘The whole town and country is employ’d for at least 20 mile round in spinning, weaving, dressing, and scouring, fulling and drying of the serges. It turns the most money in a weeke of anything in England. One weeke with another there is 10,000 pound paid in ready money, sometimes 15,000 pound. The weavers bringe in their serges, and must have their money, w^{ch} they employ to provide them yarne to goe to worke againe. . . . There is a prodigious quantety of their serges they never bring into the market, but are in hired roomes w^{ch} are noted for it, for it would be impossible to have it altogether. The carryers I met going wth it, as thick, all entring

into town wth their loaded horses, they bring them all just from the loame and soe they are put into the ffulling-mills, but first they will clean and scour their roomes with them, w^{ch} by the way gives noe pleasing perfume to a roome, the oyle and grease, and I should think it would rather foul a roome than cleanse it because of the oyles, but I perceive its otherwise esteemed by them w^{ch} will send to their acquaintance y^t are tackers the dayes the serges comes in for a rowle to cleanse their house—this I was an eye witness of. Then they lay them in soack in vrine, then they soape them and soe put them into the ffulling mills and soe worke them in the mills drye till they are thick enough, then they turn water into them and so scower them. Ye mill does draw out and gather in y^e serges, its a pretty diversion to see it, a sort of huge notch'd timbers like great teethe ; one would thinke it should injure the serges, but it does not. Ye mills draws in wth such a great violence that if one stands neere it and it catch a bitt of your Garment it would be ready to draw in y^e person even in a trice. When they are thus scour'd they drye them in racks strained out w^{ch} are as thick set one by another as will permitt ye dresser to pass between and huge large fields occupy'd this way ; then when drye they picke out all knots then fold them wth a paper between every fold and so sett them on an jron plaite and screw down ye press on them which has another jron plate on the top under w^{ch} is a furnace of fire of coales, this is the hott press ; then they fold them exceeding exact and then press them in a cold press, some they dye, but the most are sent up for London white.¹

A fact which cannot be overlooked and which well illustrates the proverb, 'It's an ill wind,' &c., is, that the trade of Tiverton which commenced on parallel lines with Wellington, has suffered terribly from the devastating fires to which the place fell a victim in 1612 and 1731. From the paralyzing effects of these conflagrations no place could recover at once, and when Tiverton was in its extremity, Wellington seized its opportunity and drew a large amount of the serge trade to itself.

From the rude and unpretentious processes of preparing the wool there has been a very extraordinary development within the memory of many now living.

¹ Fiennes, *Journal*, 1695.

A writer¹ thoroughly conversant with the weaving industry in this town has thus described one of the earliest known methods of wool preparation: 'The longest fibre from the back and shoulders of the fleeces would in some rude way be combed and spun by hand into strong worsted for the warp, while the short wool from the rest of the fleece, as also that from the lambs, would be carded by handcards, and spun into soft weft. Then with a simple loom (hardly changed in a single particular from the model which we find in Egyptian hieroglyphics) it would be woven into a strong texture with a diagonal rib.'

About the end of the last century the clumsy hand-cards resembling a common hair-brush were abandoned in favour of the improvement of the carding-engine. The old method was, however, not entirely given up at once, and in many small places it was no uncommon thing to see the old process of wheel-spinning and hand-carding continued long after the introduction of improved machinery. It must be understood that until about a quarter of a century ago weaving was very largely carried on in the cottages round and about the town, each man being his own master. Furthermore, the local manufactures must be considered in their early history as being more scattered and divided. The present establishment at Tonedale embraces an equivalent of scores of small weaving concerns such as primarily existed.

The earliest reference we have to the art of dyeing being carried on here is in the *Life of Joseph Alleine*, where the author of the *Alarm to the Unconverted* is referred to as preaching in a dye-house. Later references to the same industry being continued lead us to the conclusion that the humble workers who wove and spun in their own homes got their goods dyed at the dye-house.

At one time Wiveliscombe was a formidable rival to Wellington in the manufacture of woollen goods, and it was indeed a very thriving centre for the industry, supplying large quantities of goods

¹ Fox, *Chronicles of Tonedale*.

for home consumption, and exporting extensively to Spain and the Channel Islands. During the first decade or so of the present century, pack-horses carrying yarn went to and fro once or twice a-week. At a later date, and within the memory of some old employés, there was frequently seen in the yard at Tonedale a whole array of pack-horses and waggons just going or returning from journeys of greater or less distances. The mill-workers and master-men were indeed largely dependent on the pack-horse as a means of transit for goods. The trusty steed with his tinkling bells was for long a familiar spectacle over the boggy roads in the neighbourhood.

An old stone built into the wall of the Tone Fulling Mills, with the inscription 'Thomas and Elizabeth Were, 1754,' forms an interesting record of the early days of Tone and Tonedale. Thomas Fox, whose conspicuous ability did so much for the settlement and extension of the staple trade of Wellington, was the grandson of the two worthies named on the stone above, and the grandfather of the present (1889) representatives.

During the youth of Thomas Fox the business premises were at Trade House, in South Street, and such machinery as could not then be worked by hands was driven by horse power, four cart-horses being set apart for this work. Much of the combing was, of course, done by hand in the cottages about the town, and the wool prepared by these means was then passed on to the spinners. Mr. Fox says¹ (1879), 'Within the memory of workmen still living the wool was taken to the spinners—mostly poor women living in Wellington and the neighbourhood—who, on the old-fashioned spinning-wheel, spun the short-carded wool into weft, and the long-combed wool into worsted, for the warps of the serges. Thomas Slade, an aged foreman of those days, well remembered going weekly with a cart to the village of Hillfarrance, where a number of these homely spinners resided, carrying the prepared wool to the appointed

¹ *Chronicles of Tonedale.*

places, and taking from them the yarn and worsted they had spun. This was in turn served out in proper quantities to the weavers who had looms, generally their own, and who wove it in their own houses into lengths of serge, which were milled in the fulling mills at Tone Bridge, ever since used for the same purpose.'

In the case of weavers, the hand-shuttle continued to be used until about 1830, when the fly-shuttle was introduced. In using the former, the yarn had to be wound by hand on hollow pieces of stick, and then attached to the shuttle. This process must have involved great waste of time and energy.

In 1790 the Tonedale factory, which until this date had been used as a flour-mill, was started with improved machinery. These improvements—radical in their own day—were the work of Mr. Thomas Fox, whose son, the late Mr. Henry Fox, has preserved some recollections of the ability of his father. Besides fulfilling an unusually large number of engagements with punctuality and exactitude, 'he purchased land, and on it erected mills, formed water-courses, commenced farming, and built farm premises and a dwelling house for himself.' And these, besides his exertions tending towards the prosperity of his firm. In the social and religious welfare of the town he was constantly active, and the continued demands made upon him for assistance in various ways were such as only a man of well-regulated and equal mind could have found time to satisfy. 'So punctual was he that he seldom or never was late at a meal or meeting, and never behind the time appointed for an engagement.'¹ Mr. Thomas Fox died in April, 1821, and, to add a further calamity to this serious loss, the mill at Tonedale was destroyed by fire the following August. A new mill having been commenced a short time previous to this at Uffculme, the execution of the contracts on hand was at once transferred there, not, however, without serious loss.

¹ Mr. Fox was a Quaker. It is curious and worthy of note that for centuries the woollen manufactures of the south-western and other districts have been in the hands of Protestant Dissenters.

For many years previous to 1833 very large quantities of serge were purchased from the Wellington Mills by the East India Company. So large was the export in this direction that, upon the termination of that Company's Charter in 1833, much distress was felt, and the sale of long ells fell so very low that the strongest only of many firms withstood the strain.¹ When Moore published his *History of Devonshire* in 1829 he found reason to lament that, though during a long period a large portion of the woollen fabrics of the country were produced in Devonshire and the neighbouring counties, 'at present,' says he, 'the manufacture is principally confined to a species of fabrics called serge or long ells, which are exported chiefly by the East India Company.'

Between 1850 and 1856 great improvements in machinery were introduced in the Wellington factories. The first power-loom was set up in 1852, and in 1856 a Lister's combing machine superseded the old hand-combing process. The introduction of this last-named invention resulted in the throwing of large numbers of workmen out of employment. The Wellington employers, however, with admirable foresight and philanthropy, reduced any possible privation to a minimum by giving all their men who were affected by the innovation a long notice of six months, and in a very large number of cases fresh situations were found for them in other parts of the country.

Within recent years great improvements have been effected at Tone in the process of dyeing, magnificent machinery and the most improved chemical agencies taking the place of the old incommodious wooden vats. At the present time 6000 to 8000 yards of material can be dyed daily. The old racks with hooks have given way to new tentering machines and hot blasting engines.

¹ 'Long ells were made of the average quality of Devon and Somerset wool, both in warp and weft. The former being made of worsted spun from the long wool called "body," the latter from the shorter wools scoured with lambs and skin wools. They were woven to finish twenty-four yards long, thirty-one inches wide, and to weigh twelve pounds when washed and dry; but no further finish was attempted in the district, and the pieces were nearly all sent from Topsham by coasting vessels to be dyed and pressed in London.'—C. H. Fox.

Economical processes have been so far perfected that by a chemical agency the refuse from the mills, which fouled and discoloured the river, is now converted into a saleable oleaginous substance, and this in turn, being distilled, produces a valuable cloth oil. The difficulty of the discolouring of the stream by dyes was not completely overcome until 1871, when the impure matter was pumped up to a certain elevation, and exposure to natural agencies produced the purifying effect required.

Facts are not wanting to prove that, while in many places in the West of England the woollen industry has sunk to a very low ebb, the manufactory at Wellington has not only held its own, but has gathered to itself much of the trade of other towns. And this has been effected by the high standard of quality maintained in the factories here, which has given to the Wellington goods a really world-wide reputation in spite of the competition of north-country towns.

The importance of our wool trade cannot be over-estimated. For centuries wool has remained a principal article for English manipulation, and the various Acts of Parliament passed in several reigns for the encouragement and due restriction of the industry testify to the zealous regard in which it was held.

Though the foregoing remarks have been made to apply to Tonedale, it should be added that there is also at Westford, on the west of the town, another mill where a large number of hands are constantly employed.

Brick, Tile, and Pottery Works.—The extensive Brick, Tile, and Pottery Manufactory adjacent to the Great Western Railway, near Wellington, has been in operation for nearly fifty years. This large establishment is situated in the parish of West Buckland, on the borders of Wellington and Nynehead parishes, about one mile east of Wellington. The works were originally started in 1842 by Mr. William Thomas, the owner of Poole Farm, for the manufacture of common building bricks and draining pipes. At that

period the draining of land by pipes had become recognised as the only effectual method, the old mode of gutter draining with loose stones having been abandoned.

There was, for a considerable time, a good local demand, and the trade was largely confined to the neighbourhood until the Bristol and Exeter Railway was formed, and opened up for traffic in 1844. This did very much to develop a more extended business.

In the year 1866 Mr. Thomas converted his business into a Limited Liability Company confined exclusively to a few of his personal friends. Mr. Thomas Nicholson Sully was appointed secretary and manager, and continues in that position to the present time (1889). The founder, however, did not live long to witness the steady and increasing success of the business which he had for many years fostered.

The Poole Company has been to the front in taking advantage of every mechanical improvement, and the directors have from time to time laid down the most improved machinery for the preparation of clay and the manufacture of fancy pottery goods, and what is known in the trade as 'coarse ware pottery.' From the mode of preparation the clay is reduced to the finest quality, and the articles made are very superior in appearance and durability.

The deposits of clay on the property are very extensive, and of such superior quality that the firm for many years have had their bricks selected for Government works, by railway companies for their bridges and tunnels, and by corporate bodies for their public buildings, sewerage, and street paving.

The first directors of this large company were:—

Mr. William Thomas, Woodlands, near Wellington.

„ Richard Corner, The Bower, „

„ Thomas Blake, Cutsey, West Buckland.

„ George B. Sully, Bridgwater,

„ Thomas Nicholson Sully, The Lawn, Wellington.

Tanning.—In the early part of this century the tanning business

was largely carried on at Poole by Mr. Francis Thomas, and was continued by his son William until the year 1860, when tanning had undergone great changes. The trade then became centred in large cities, where the more rapid modern processes were substituted for the method of bark tanning in pots, a process requiring much time and labour.

The Market Company.—But few of the inhabitants of our town can recollect when the meat market was held under shambles in the middle of the street, extending nearly the whole length of Fore Street, and occupying so much space that there was barely room for two carriages to pass; and this at a time when a number of stage-coaches passed and re-passed daily, and when there were many post-carriages and a great number of carts and waggons, for a large district of country was supplied with coal from Taunton by land carriage. The inconvenience to townspeople and others became so great that, about the year 1813, the shambles were removed, and for nearly twenty years the market was held under moveable stalls in the street, the butchers and their customers being exposed to the heat and dust in the summer, and to rain and snow in winter.

This state of things caused various applications to be made to the Duke of Wellington, to whom, as Lord of the Manor, the tolls of the market belonged, for the erection of a suitable building for its accommodation. To these applications the Duke did not accede, alleging as his ground of refusal that he had only a life interest in the property.

This led, in the early part of 1831, to the formation of a company, and the appointment of a deputation to wait on the Duke. It was then agreed that His Grace should purchase property for the site of a market, which, together with the tolls, was leased to the company for ninety years at a rent of 170*l.* It was agreed a few years afterwards to purchase the adjoining premises. The money for this purchase and for rebuilding, amounting to 1100*l.*, was advanced by the Duke at three per cent, bringing the annual rent up

to 2031. The present Town Hall and market were erected by the company at a cost of about 3000*l.*, and the market was opened for use in February 1832. Had the wishes of the people some fifty years ago been carried into effect the Town Hall would not have been where it now stands, even if the awkward corner were there. There was a proposal to purchase the block of property in Fore Street, but an offer made to the owner was not accepted, and attention was then directed to the opposite side of the road.

Previous to 1869 the market-house proved a better centre for business and general commerce than it has since been. Many industries have ceased to be represented there owing to the establishing of shops. It is worthy of remark that the butchers have, in times of prosperity and adversity, had their stalls regularly in the market, and the show of fat meat on the Thursday preceding Christmas Day has always been an attraction.

For many years a 'tub' market was held regularly for the sale of corn by the peck or tub. This was largely patronised by the town and country folk who were accustomed to bake their own bread, buying the grist at the market and getting it ground by a miller.

When bakers' shops became more general, and the public found that they could buy their bread ready baked at a lower figure, another blow was struck at the Wellington market, and between 1850 and 1860 the 'tub' market was given up.

About 1837 an attempt was made to establish a cattle market, but owing probably to a lack of public spirit and enterprise the venture did not succeed. In 1868 Mr. George Hall, in conjunction with other prominent townsmen, made a vigorous and meritorious effort to revive the cattle market. For this purpose the use of a field behind 'The White Hart' was granted by Mrs. Pulman. Apathy and lack of co-operation, however, soon caused this market to dwindle down until it became extinct.

In 1886 the Wellington Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture became infused with fresh life, and a successful cattle market has

now been established. With the co-operation of all concerned this market promises to add a permanent value to the trade of the town.

Encouraged by the success of the cattle market, there has also been revived the long obsolete pannier market. The funds necessary for re-starting this old market having been readily advanced, much confidence is felt in the success of the undertaking. It should, however, be borne in mind that the immediate neighbourhood of Wellington does not offer such an opening for the successful working of a pannier market as do the places where hardware, lace, hosiery, and fancy goods, are largely made. Those employed in the technical trades, by reason of the higher rates of wages, are better able to support a pannier market than agricultural labourers, who have to exist upon a much lower scale of wages.

In 1883 the whole of the Market-House property was purchased by the Market and Town Hall Company from the trustees of the Duke of Wellington.

Constitution, &c.—Wellington is a parish and market town, the principal of the Union to which it gives its name, and head of a County Court District. It is in the Deanery and Archdeaconry of Taunton, Diocese of Bath and Wells, Hundred of Kingsbury West, in the Wellington Division of Somerset. Wellington gives its name to the Parliamentary Division in which it is situate, and is the polling place for Langford Budville, Nynehead, Runnington, Sampford Arundell, Thorne St. Margaret, Wellington, and West Buckland; it is also the head of a Division under the Local Government scheme. It is on the south-east bank of the River Tone, the main road from Taunton to Exeter, passing through the town, and on the Bristol and Exeter section of the Great Western Railway, 7 miles south-west from Taunton, $23\frac{1}{2}$ north-west from Exeter, $51\frac{1}{2}$ south-west from Bristol, 152 from London by road and $170\frac{1}{2}$ by rail.

The government of the town was until 1873 vested in the

Rural Sanitary Board, which acted under the Board of Guardians. In 1873 it was felt that a proper proportion of attention for Wellington was not got under this arrangement, and the question of adopting the Local Board was put to the vote and carried.

A Provisional Order, dated 16 May, 1873, declared this arrangement ratified.

Provisional Order declaring the Parish of Wellington, in the County of Somerset, to be an Urban Sanitary District.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Wellington Union, in the Counties of Somerset and Devon, being the Sanitary Authority for the Rural Sanitary District of that Union ;

To the Inhabitants of the Parish of Wellington, in the said Union, in the County of Somerset ;

And to all others whom it may concern ;

WHEREAS, by Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1872, it is enacted, that the Local Government Board may, by Provisional Order, declare any portion of any Rural Sanitary District to be an Urban Sanitary District ; and that upon such order being confirmed by Parliament, the portion of the District referred to therein shall become a Local Government District, and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of a Local Board.

And whereas the Parish of Wellington, in the County of Somerset, forms a portion of the Rural Sanitary District of the Wellington Union, and application has been made to the Local Government Board to declare the said Parish to be an Urban Sanitary District, and to issue a Provisional Order for that purpose.

And whereas on receipt of the said application, the Local Government Board directed an Inquiry to be held on the subject, and the same was held after due notice, and report has been made to them thereon. The Local Board to consist of nine persons.

16 May, 1873.

Population.—By a survey in 1784 the number of houses in the town and the several hamlets of the Parish of Wellington, was found to be as follows:—

Houses in the town	...	462	Westford	...	...	24
Rockwell Green	...	93	Standle and Oldway	...	...	23
Payton	...	14	Ford	...	...	17
Holywell Lake	...	26	Farmhouses and other			
Pleamoor Cross and			scattered dwellings..			48
Wrangway	...	33	Total	...	...	740

1801. *Houses*, inhabited, 745; occupied by 848 families. Houses uninhabited, 22.

Persons: Males, 1789. Females, 2244.

Occupations: Persons chiefly employed in Agriculture, 377; Trade, Manufacture, &c., 2535; all other persons not included in the two preceding classes, 1121. Total of Persons, 4033.

1811. Total of Persons, 3874.

1821. Ditto, 4170.

1831. Ditto, 4762.

1871. *Houses*: inhabited, 1342; uninhabited, 36; building, 5. Total of Persons, 6286.

1881. *Houses*: inhabited, 1341; uninhabited, 45; building, 10. Total of Persons, 6360.

Turnpike Act.—By an Act passed in 1817 all the roads which were formerly comprised in one district were declared to form only one trust. The trustees are empowered to make a carriage road from Henley's Barn, or Parson's House, in the Parish of Bishop's Hull to the village of Rumwell, in the same parish, and also from the village of Chilson, to the town of Wellington. Only one toll was to be taken between Shuttern Gate, Taunton, and White Ball.

In 1752, when a Bill was introduced in Parliament for the better keeping of the roads in the district, Thomas Prowse caused much

amusement in the House by undertaking to prove that the roads were in so bad a state that it would be no more expense to make them navigable than to make them fit for vehicular traffic.¹ In 1795 we hear of the roads round Wellington as very narrow, deep, and stony, the banks on each side high, and the hedges meeting in an arch overhead.¹

Masonic.—The name of the Lodge here is ‘Lodge of Liberty and Sincerity.’ The date of its warrant, 19 February, 1774. This was a thriving and important Lodge, the records of its early days showing a long list of members comprising principally professional and commercial men of good standing, and also members of the Forces and County Families.

The Lodge having subscribed towards the erection of the Free-masons’ Hall in Great Queen Street, London, had the privilege of using with their Regalia a medal specially struck to commemorate that event—an honour now held by only four Provincial Lodges.

Volunteers.—C Company, 2nd Volunteer Battalion Prince Albert’s Somersetshire Light Infantry.

Yeomanry.—Wellington Troop West Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry.

PROPRIETORS OF THE PRINCIPAL INNS

(AS FAR BACK AS THEY CAN BE TRACED).

SQUIRREL.	Mr. Gadd.	WHITE HART.
Mr. — Liddon.	Mrs. Rossiter.	Mr. Butler, senior.
„ G. „	Mr. Michael Hawkins.	„ „ junior.
„ Fackrall.	„ Bond.	„ Fackrall.
Mrs. Hurley.		„ Govier.
Mr. Corner.	GREEN DRAGON.	„ Dyer.
„ Sharland.	Mr. J. Southwood.	„ Hewitt.
KING’S ARMS.	„ Chinn.	„ Norman.
Mrs. Timewell.	„ Morrish.	„ Grabham.
	„ Waters.	„ Morrish.
		„ Alway.

¹ Toulmin, *History of Taunton*, Ed. Webb, p. 348.

² Collinson.

PROPRIETORS OF THE PRINCIPAL INNS—*Continued.*

SHIP.	HALF MOON.	EIGHT BELLS.
Mr. Coles.	Mr. Mitchell.	Mr. William Gill.
„ Davy.	„ Clay.	Mrs. Gill.
„ Perry.	„ Small.	Mr. J. Dobell.
„ Chipling.	„ Mildon.	„ J. Morrish.
		„ Henry Thorne.

PUBLIC OFFICERS.

THE PORTREEVES, ALE-TASTERS, AND BELLMEN SINCE 1815.¹

1815.	James Chadwell, <i>P.</i> John Stradling, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1825.	William Payne, <i>P.</i> „ Marshall, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1816.	Ephraim Trenchard, <i>P.</i> James Webber, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1826.	David Wood, <i>P.</i> Daniel Oliver, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1817.	James Fackrall, <i>P.</i> Robert Simpson, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1827.	Richard Furze, <i>P.</i> William Parks, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1818.	David Wood, <i>P.</i> John Sharland, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1828.	William Marshall, <i>P.</i> „ Humphris, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1819.	John Austen, <i>P.</i> James Blackmore, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1829.	Daniel Oliver, <i>P.</i> Charles Fox, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1820.	Robert Simpson, <i>P.</i> Israel Osmond, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1830.	William Sparkes, <i>P.</i> Samuel Haycraft, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1821.	John Shand, <i>P.</i> William Stradling, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1831.	William Humphris, <i>P.</i> George Cherry, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>
1822—	No entry.	1832.	William Rodham, <i>P.</i> James Clement, <i>A.</i> William Studley, <i>B.</i>
1824.	William Stradling, <i>P.</i> Richard Furze, <i>A.</i> Thomas Percey, <i>B.</i>	1833.	Mark B. Weston, <i>P.</i>

¹ The other officers usually elected were the Bailiff, Water Bailiff, Constable, Scavenger, Searcher and Sealer of Green Hides, and the Clerk of the Market.

1833.	John Brooks, <i>A.</i>	William Studley, <i>B.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	
1834.	M. B. Weston, <i>P.</i>	Josiah Kerswell, <i>A.</i>
	James Lock, <i>A.</i>	William Studley, <i>B.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	
1835.	James Webber, <i>P.</i>	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	William Alway, <i>A.</i>	William Sercombe, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	William Studley, <i>B.</i>
1836.	Matt. Henry Devenish, <i>P.</i>	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	John Studley, <i>A.</i>	Samuel Holway, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1837.	M. H. Devenish, <i>P.</i>	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	John Toms, <i>A.</i>	Thomas Ball, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1838.	William Kingdom, <i>P.</i>	John Romeril, <i>P.</i>
	William Alway, <i>A.</i>	W ^m Designey, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1839.	James Baker, junior, <i>P.</i>	Josiah Kerswell, <i>P.</i>
	William Alway, <i>A.</i>	William Louse, <i>A.</i>
	„ Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1840.	Sylvanus Yates, <i>P.</i>	Thomas Marsh, <i>P.</i>
	William Alway, <i>A.</i>	William Honniball, <i>A.</i>
	„ Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1841.	Frederick Sharland, <i>P.</i>	John Greedy, <i>P.</i>
	Thomas Price, <i>A.</i>	William Tudball, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1842.	Charles Williams, <i>P.</i>	Jonathan Cutler, <i>P.</i>
	Jacob Short, <i>A.</i>	John May, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1843.	John Horsey, <i>P.</i>	John Langford, <i>P.</i>
	Richard Trood, <i>A.</i>	William Parsons, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1844.	John Holley, <i>P.</i>	William Payne, <i>P.</i>
	Frederick Sharland, <i>A.</i>	Richard Corner, <i>A.</i>
	William Studley, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1845.	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	Charles Chinn, <i>A.</i>	William Tooze, <i>A.</i>
		Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>

1858.	Henry Elworthy, <i>P.</i>	Frederick H. Window, <i>A.</i>
	William Tooze, <i>A.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	
1859.	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>	1871. Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	William Tooze, <i>A.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1860.	Frederick Sharland, <i>P.</i>	1872. Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	John Bailey, <i>A.</i>	Henry Winter, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1861.	William Reynolds, <i>P.</i>	1873. Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	John Hayward, <i>A.</i>	William Clarke, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1862.	William Reynolds, <i>P.</i>	1874. Thomas Fox, <i>P.</i>
	William Sercombe, <i>A.</i>	Joseph Bond, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>
1863.	William Reynolds, <i>P.</i>	1875. Thomas Fox, <i>P.</i>
	William Culverwell, <i>A.</i>	Charles Morrish, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1864.	John Toms, <i>P.</i>	1876. George Smith Fox, <i>P.</i>
	James Westcott, <i>A.</i>	Charles Morrish, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1865.	Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>	1877. Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	James Westcott, <i>A.</i>	George Bellamy, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1866.	F. Selby Bettle, <i>P.</i>	1878. Richard Corner, <i>P.</i>
	James Westcott, <i>A.</i>	Francis Brown, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1867.	Fred. Selby Bettle, <i>P.</i>	1879. William Burridge, <i>P.</i>
	William Bishop, <i>A.</i>	William Jefferies, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1868.	John Knowlman, <i>P.</i>	1880. William Burridge, junr., <i>P.</i>
	John Hammett, <i>A.</i>	William Jefferies, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1869.	John Knowlman, <i>P.</i>	1881. Charles Barham Bond, <i>P.</i>
	John Selway, <i>A.</i>	William Ellis, <i>A.</i>
	Henry Trim, <i>B.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
1870.	John B. Knowlman, <i>P.</i>	1882. No entry.
		1883. Joseph Hoyland Fox, <i>P.</i>

William Ellis, <i>A.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>
John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>	1886. James S. Haddon, <i>P.</i>
1884. Joseph Hoyland Fox, <i>P.</i>	William Alway, <i>A.</i>
Clement Toller, <i>A.</i>	H. D. Lucas, <i>B.</i>
John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>	1887. E. Lee Michell, <i>P.</i>
1885. James S. Haddon, <i>P.</i>	Jabez Stark, <i>A.</i>
Wm. T. Jefferies, <i>A.</i>	John Bowerman, <i>B.</i>

The dates given in the foregoing are those of election, but as the court is held in November, or thereabouts, the officers elected hold office for the greater part of the year following election.

POSTMASTERS TO THE PRESENT TIME.

— Butler.	Richard Corner.	Robert Toms.
James Webber.	James Hewitt.	Peter Foster Munns.
Mark B. Weston.		

THE TRADING COMMUNITY AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY (1795-1805).

BLACKSMITHS.	WOOLCOMBERS.	TAILORS.
Robert Martin.	John Giles.	Patrick Bryan.
Benjamin Manley.	Robert Shurford.	William Yandell.
William Hitchcock.	William Scott.	„ Davey.
John Prowse.	Christopher Slade.	
Thomas Bragg.	John Twose.	
John Stevens.	John Norman.	
John Down.	William Webber.	
WEAVERS.		SPINNERS.
John Baker.	Edward Brown.	Ann Snook.
John Redwood.	William Lock.	Amy Morrish.
William Hitt.	„ Upham.	Fanny Stone.
Michael Baker.	Thomas Russell.	
John Vicary.	Edward Clarke.	
		SCHOOLMASTERS.
William Cooper.	Joseph Witheman.	Nicholas Jones.
David Tottle.	Thomas Makepeace.	Thomas Browne.
William Jenkins.	John Potter.	
Robert Bishop.	William Eveleigh.	
		WHEELWRIGHTS.
	William Thorne.	Robert Hawkins.
		Thomas Janes.
		„ Saturley.
		Robert Pyne.

SCRIBBLER.	TANNER.	WATCHMAKER.
John Shurford.	Richard Trood.	John Crawley.
BAKERS.	CORDWAINERS.	APOTHECARY.
John Taylor.	Thomas Fry.	Amos Lyddon.
James Baker.	Robert Salter.	CARRIERS.
BOOKSELLERS.	William Baker.	George Harper.
Samuel Brooks.	Edward Jewell.	William Dimond.
George Cherry.	James Austin.	QUILLMAKER TO THE WEAVERS. ¹
BUTCHERS.	Robert Burdon.	Mary Curtis.
Thomas Hitchcock.	George Daw.	POSTILLIONS AND POST-BOYS.
John Wensley.	John Lee.	James Leat.
Robert Snook.	Thomas Chappell.	William Brown.
ATTORNEYS.	Israel Holway.	Samuel Stradling.
Frederick White.	John Potter.	William Reed.
John Poole.	James Greenslade.	John Lapthorne.
Frederick Steele.	Thomas Stone.	John Slade.
David Warren.	Henry Symes.	Robert Phillips.
John Gale.	PUBLICANS.	George Fry.
MALSTERS.	James Janes.	Henry Farrant.
Hugh Bellett.	James Southerwood.	Simeon Hammet.
Robert Were.	William Clay.	PRINTER.
William Gale.	„ Hill.	John Baker.
Edward Aplin.	John Brown.	
Henry Southey.	Thomas Brown.	

¹ These quills were used for winding the yarn from the hank or skein. The bobbin now corresponds to the quill.

FOLK-LORE, &c.

Bishop Blaize—Beating the Bounds—The Holy Thorn—Fairs, &c.—Sports—Witchcraft—Superstitions about places—Ghosts, Fairies—Superstitions about Births and Deaths—Old Inns—The Turnspit Dog—Miscellaneous Beliefs.

THE neighbourhood of Wellington is particularly rich in all kinds of curious survivals and superstitions. The advance of civilisation is so rapidly obliterating all traces of these relics that their continued existence here makes a happy hunting-ground for the antiquary.

Until about forty years ago the festival of Bishop Blaize was regularly celebrated in the town on the third of February. The Bishop was the chosen patron saint of the wool-combers, and his festival was recognised in most towns where woollen materials were made.

The ceremony here in Wellington was held at the club-house of the wool-combers ('The Bell Inn'), or at some ale-house in the town. The Bishop was chosen from among the combers, and during the ceremony he sat enrobed in mitre upon a throne, with high candlesticks on the right and left, and boys with charcoaled faces stood in front, also bearing candles. The festival was kept up all night, and homage was paid to the Bishop by the combers during the time that he sat enthroned. The last Bishop Blaize festival was held at the house of Joseph Neath in Mantle Street. On that occasion William Eveleigh was the Bishop. The assembled company was always addressed in lines commencing thus:—

'Behold our Bishop Blaize,
Who first invented combing,
Some say he has been dead long time,
But now we're come to shew him.'

The ceremony was engaged in by wool-staplers, spinners, apprentices, wool-sorters, comb-makers, dyers, and others, and there can be no doubt that at one time this custom was one of great local importance, and what is known of it now are but the last flickerings ere it became extinct.

The ancient custom of Beating the Bounds in Rogation week is still occasionally observed, a number of townsfolk perambulating the limits of the parish. Particular encouragement is offered to lads to join in this perambulation so that they may acquaint themselves with the parish bounds. The last 'Beating of Bounds' was observed on the 10th and 11th of June, 1884. The beaters start from a point near Poole brickworks, pass across Cades Farm, and skirt the boundaries of West Buckland; then through Jurston, up Ford Street Hill to nearly the top, and then, bearing to the right, towards the monument. After this the beaters bear away in the direction of Hemyock, past the 'Cat and Fiddle,' and on towards the Culmstock boundary, across the Heath to Sampford Hill and Beam Bridge. For the second day's outing the district represented by Thorn St. Margaret, Holywell Lake, Langford Budville, and Nynehead Park, is beaten. The Chairman of the Local Board and the Assistant Overseer are the principal 'Beaters.'

It is lawful and customary to appropriate a certain sum of parish money for refreshment for the 'Beaters.' This is done in accordance with a custom prevalent time out of mind. The perambulation of the town stream to Wearhead at Woodlands on Whit Monday, has, after many years of obscurity, again become customary, and it is the intention of the water bailiff to maintain this laudable revival. The rights of the town stream should be jealously guarded, for, not only is it public property, but it also

serves very effectually to keep our drains in continual motion, and has a tendency to prevent the bursting of subterranean channels after heavy rains. This stream was given to the town by Sir John Popham, and the only lawful direction of its course other than through the town is a tiny stream which runs off to Gerbestone Farm.

In an orchard at West Buckland there is a sprig of the famous Holy Thorn. This is supposed to burst into bloom on old Christmas Eve, and then only. Just before midnight a number of people make their way to the orchard anxious to see the phenomenon. A gentleman writing on the 14th of January, 1889, from West Buckland, says that nearly one hundred people, whose ages varied from ten years to old people of nearly sixty, visited the Holy Thorn in an orchard at the back of Victoria House on last old Christmas Eve. Many were so eager to see the shrub come into bud that they unhung the gate leading into the orchard and made gaps in the hedge. About three years ago this Thorn was torn all to pieces by a crowd of roughs, and at the present time (1889) is not in a very flourishing condition. The truth is that this is a very early thorn which regularly comes into bud at the time of the year named, and it is frequently to be seen covered with blossom before old Christmas Day. Another curious custom of this same place is for people to go to the cowsheds on old Christmas Eve at midnight to see the animals kneel in honour to the occasion commemorated. By the disturbing of the cattle it can well be understood that the observance brings about its own apparent substantiation.

Many of the labouring class keep old Christmas Day in strict observance. Many say that it would be wicked to work on that day, as it is the real Christmas Day, and they would not on any account do so.

The Fairs of the town are rapidly becoming things of the past. But a few years ago the town presented a spectacle of much merriment and life on the two fair days, and farther back than most people

now living can remember, the town on such days was the scene of much disorderly conduct and drunkenness.

It is often found that the local revel or fair is held on the day kept sacred for the patron saint of the parish church, and very likely this was once so here, but there is no evidence to bring forward. In 1792, as far back as we can go on the subject, the Fair days were held the Thursday before Easter and on Holy Thursday (April 30th). At the present time Fairs are held on the second Wednesday in March and the first Wednesday in June. Within the past few years the attendance at the fairs has much diminished. Twenty and less years ago cattle were penned from the Wesleyan Chapel in Mantle Street to the 'White Hart' in High Street, and also in South Street. This caused the streets to be much impeded. Stalls were erected on every available spot by people coming from Taunton and neighbouring towns. At fair time the fat and best stock was in High Street twenty yards or so beyond the 'White Hart.' Young stock was fenced off in South Street. That portion of Millway which is in front of the Half Moon Yard was called Sheep Pen Street. Sheep were regularly fenced there.

Upon the completion of the Wellington Monument on the Blackdown Hill, a man who went by the name of Doubledanger organized a pleasure fair, to be held annually on the open space around the pillar, and to be called Waterloo Fair. This was continued for about two years, and then ceased.

A curious custom is that of throwing a handful of stones against a neighbour's door on the night before Shrove Tuesday.

The 29th of May is still known as Oak Apple Day, and as the anniversary of the Restoration of Charles II. it is still customary for boys to wear in their hats a sprig of oak with the apple gilded over with leaf gold. A tradition of the neighbourhood is that the King came into these parts when hiding after the Battle of Worcester, and it is believed that he was secreted at Dunster Castle.

On old Twelfth Night it is customary in the neighbourhood of

Runnington and Langford Budville for the folk to go out and shoot at their apple-trees. By these means it is believed that a plenteous yield of fruit will be insured.

Sports.—Cock-fighting used to be an amusement frequently indulged in, and birds were especially kept for the purpose. The sport was practised in the fields around the town. Cudgel-playing, an extinct sport now, was largely encouraged at district fairs and in the villages around, particularly at Langford Budville and Holywell Lake. The sport was conducted as follows: A raised platform was set up in front of a public-house, or other open space, by setting a number of casks upright on the ground, and placing planks across the top. One of the cudgel-players would then mount the platform, and, having stripped himself and flourished his stick about as a sort of challenge, he would be joined on the boards by another man who was willing to take up the gauntlet. The contest would then commence, and both parties usually got severely wounded. It would seem that very little regard was paid to bodily safety, and the greater the injuries inflicted the greater the sport.

Badger-drawing was an amusement supported to a great extent by gentlemen of the town. Mr. Bovet, Mr. Snook, and Mr. Mark Weston were patrons of badger fights, which when they took place caused much excitement in the neighbourhood. The game consisted in putting a badger into a barrel and inciting bull-dogs to draw him out, the ferocious temperament of both animals resulting in much cruelty and mutilation of the body.

The sport of bull-baiting was confined to Holywell Lake and Beam Bridge, and not engaged in nearer the town than that. The bull was tied by a rope to a stake, and dogs were then set upon him—the bull becoming infuriated and the dogs getting gored.

Some excitement was now and then caused by visits from the Devonshire and Cornish wrestlers, when some sharp contests were entered into. The men of Devon and Cornwall have been celebrated, time out of mind, for their expertness and adroitness in wrestling.

About the year 1826 the game of archery was a favourite, and seemed likely to outbid cricket as a popular sport. Since then cricket and football have in the town been in the ascendant, although in several of the villages and hamlets around the town the villagers are much more at home with a game of rounders than they are with a bat.

The ancient game of prisoner's bars or base has had a good deal of support in the neighbourhood, and a loose game of hockey, perhaps better known as 'shinney,' was until a few years ago very popular.

The revival of Guy Faux Day is a noteworthy fact of the past two or three years. For a long time the fifth of November had been almost forgotten, and no enthusiasm was displayed ; but—

‘Now, boys with
Squibs and crackers play,
And bonfire's blaze
Turns night to day.’

A torchlight procession has been revived.

Witchcraft.—The belief in magical powers of cure cannot be better exemplified than in the case of 'Conjuror' Baker. This man was originally a shoemaker, but retired from that business and became what was reputed a white witch. He circulated cards bearing his name and calling attention to the fact that he cast nativities and answered all sorts of questions. Baker resided at Westleigh, a few miles from this town, and many hundreds from Wellington and the neighbourhood around resorted thither for cure. Amongst other things Baker received fees for consultation, charms, medicine, and directions how to find out thieves and tricksters. To repeat prayers backwards, quote verses of Psalms, and such like, after swallowing certain drugs, these formed some of his remedies. An old resident in the town has informed me that he had a sister who was troubled with fits, and when so afflicted 'cried out upon' an old woman, a witch named Betty Webber, who lived in South Street. The father of the woman went to

‘Conjuror’ Baker, and received directions from that impostor to burn some powder, and at the same time the son (my informant) was to read a Psalm.

In the summer of 1888 a paragraph appeared in the *Wellington Weekly News* to the effect that a young girl had come down from London to the village of Holcombe Rogus to visit some friends. She was much troubled with fits, and an old woman of the village told the girl she was to go to church on the following Sunday, and on coming out she was to ask twelve young men to give her a piece of silver, have a ring made from the coins, and wear it on one of her fingers. The complaint would then go. She did as she was told; twelve young men gave her a silver coin, and she afterwards started off, presumably to get the ring made. When the Holcombe people came to hear that the girl was no better, they said that she must have spent the money, for had she done as requested she would not again have been troubled.

In 1887, in pulling down a house of thick cob walls, a very interesting discovery was made. There were found in a space which separated the roof from the upper room, and to which there was no visible means of access from below: (1) six brooms; (2) an old armchair; (3) a rope with feathers. The workmen, not attaching due importance to the discovery, did not take proper care of the articles, and the brooms, which were ordinary heather ones, were re-handled and distributed so that they could not be discovered. The chair was old and worm-eaten, square and stiff in shape, and with a rush bottom. It was made of oak and ash. The workmen who made the discovery expressed their belief that all these articles were the belongings of witches, and that the rope was to be used as a ladder to enable them to cross the roof. The workmen as soon as they saw the rope with feathers, called it a ‘witch’s ladder.’ This curious relic was composed of a piece of rope about five feet in length and half an inch in diameter, made with three strands, and has at one end a loop. Inserted into

the rope crossways are a number of feathers—mostly goose, some crow and rook—not placed in any designed order, or at regular intervals, but sticking out on all sides of the rope, nearly at right angles. The feathers were made into the rope. Some old women who were questioned as to the use of ‘the ladder’ were very reticent upon the subject. One of them, however, admitted the use of the new rope and new feathers in witchcraft. An old Devonshire woman to whom it was shown declared it must be ‘a wishing rope.’ So much interest was aroused in this relic that Dr. Tylor exhibited it at the meeting of the British Association at Manchester in 1887. On that occasion a clergyman expressed his belief that the rope might be a ‘servel’ for turning back deer in the forest, such as he himself had carried when young. It has been said also that with witches if anything goes crossgrained, if the ladder is waved to and fro a few times, and the request muttered at the same time with the swinging, the thing that was wrong will be righted. If a witch suspects a person of crime, or of witchcraft, or any offence whatsoever, she hangs her ladder outside her house; if the person comes to the door, but cannot be induced to enter, the thing is proved against him.

Another suggestion is that the rope was one of those which witches are known to have used in many places for the purpose of drawing away the milk from their neighbours’ cowsheds.

Of the many extraordinary stories told of witchcraft in the seventeenth century, the following is so remarkable a sample that it will probably test the credulity of the most superstitious. That this county was affected with witchcraft much more than most places we have only to look into Glanvil’s *Sadducismus Triumphatus*. The following case is referred to by Hutchinson,¹ but his account is very brief, and the full details which are given below are from an original letter once in the possession of Mr. Thomas A. Couch, the Cornish antiquary, and addressed to the Bishop of Exeter.

¹ *Historical Essay*, 2nd Edition, p. 62.

The Bovets, whose strange performances are described so fully, were members of a prominent family in Wellington at that time (1696), and their active interest in the Civil War and Monmouth Rebellion has been pointed out. The Horners, too, were not unknown here (see pp. 61, 62), so that, although Wellington is not actually mentioned in the narrative, there can be no doubt, judging from what data we have, but that if these strange freaks happened at all they happened in this town.

MY MOST HON^D LORD,

Y^r Lordship was pleas'd to command me to attend the tryal of y^e witch, and give you some account of it. It was thus :

Elizabeth Horner, *alias* Turner, was arraigned on three several inditements for murthering Alice, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Bovet, and for pining and laming Sarah and Mary, daughters of y^e same Thomas¹ and Elizabeth Bovet.

The evidence given w^{ch} was anything material was this : Thomas Bovet, the father, swears that Alice, the youngest of y^e three daughters, being about four years old, was taken very ill. that physitiens could see no natural cause in her illness, and y^t she died in five days. That Mary was so taken likewise. Her body strangely distorted, and her legs twisted like the screw of a gun, that she wou'd often go with her eyes shut into the fire, and say that Bett Horner drove her in ; continued thus about seven weeks. She was about ten years old.

That Sarah, nine years old, was taken after the same manner,—complained of being scratch't in bed by a cat, w^{ch} she said was Bett Horner, whom she described exactly in the apparel she had on, tho' the child had not seen her in six months before.

That after her imprisonment they were both tormented by pinching and biting, all y^e time crying out stil on Bett Horner ; at present the prints of pinches and markes of teeth appearing on their arms and cheeks (this point attested also by Justice Auchester who was wth the children at y^e time). That they would vomit pins and stones. Sarah cry'd out, the witch had put a pin into her, the point of one appeared just under the skin, and at last it came out upon her middle finger ; cry'd out of being struck by the witch wth a stick, the mark of which stroke appear'd at the time upon her

¹ Hutchinson says that *William* Bovet was the father of the children.

ankle. Sarah said that Bett Horner told her how she kill'd Alice by squeezing her breath out of her body, and that she had a teat on her left shoulder which was suck't by toads. Elizabeth Bovet, the mother, depos'd in like manner concerning Alice, who continued ill five days, and so dy'd crying out, Why doe you kill me? That Sarah and Mary were taken ill alternately, not able to say their prayers, saying they were threatened by the witch, if they shou'd doe it, to be served by her as Alice was, and that she made 'em swear and curse. That they were both of late very hungry, and being asked why they were so, they said the head of Bett Horner entered into them. That Sarah walk't up a wall nine foot high four or five times, backwards and forwards, her face and forepart of her body parallel to y^e ceiling of y^e room, saying at the time that Bett Horner carry'd her up.

The children were also produced in court, who gave the same account sensibly enough, Mary adding further that she saw Bett Horner in her full shape, playing with a toad in a basin.

Alice Osborne swore that she threaten'd her upon refusing her some barm. She afterwards found a vessel, after she had wash't it for brewing, fill'd full of drink, which they threw away, and then brewing and filling y^e vessel with drink, in four or five days, neither she nor her husband having drawn any, she found it quite empty and as dry as if no drink had ever been in it. That Bett Horner threatened her husband, saying, Thou hast children as well as others, and if I come home again, I'll mind some of 'em.

John Fursey depos'd to his seeing her three nights together upon a large down in the same place as if rising out of the ground.

Margaret Armiger depos'd that on y^e Saturday before her tryal, when the witch was in prison, she met her in the country at about twenty feet distance from her.

Mary Stevens depos'd she took a red-hot nail and drove it into the witch's left foot-step, upon which she went lame, and being search' her leg and foot appear'd to be red and fiery. She continued so four or five days, when she pull'd up the nail again, and then the witch was well. This is what was most material against her. The witch deny'd all, shew'd her shoulder bare in court, when there appear'd nothing but a kind of mole or wart, as it seem'd to me. She said the Lord's Prayer, stopping a little at *forgive us our trespasses*, but recovered and went on, and she repeated the Creed without a fault.

My Lord Chief Justice, by his questions and manner of hemming up

the evidence, seem'd to me to believe nothing of witchery at all, and to disbelieve the fact of walking up the wall, which was sworn by the mother.

My Lord, yr Lps^s most oblig'd and most obedient humble serv.

BLACKBURNE.¹

But a few years ago a farmer living at West Buckland had a cow taken ill. The animal for several weeks would not eat anything except oaken boughs, and no farriers' medicine did it any good. At the same time there was living in the village a loose character named Cook, who was a blind weeding woman. She expressed a strong belief in witchcraft, and, furthermore, believed that the cow was 'witched,' and, therefore, must pine away. A few days after this both the woman and her husband were placed in Wellington Union, and within six hours after the woman had left the village the cow began to eat heartily, and soon got well. In the house where the blind weeding woman had lived there was found in the chimney a bullock's heart filled with a great number of pins. This was believed to be a genuine case of witchcraft.

A man living in this neighbourhood told his friends that he had been bewitched. Things went wrong, and he could feel that he was 'overlooked.' Consequently a relation of his went to Chard, where resided a man famous as a 'white witch,' who could counteract the evil influence of the 'overlooking eye.' After having received a fee, this white witch declared that a certain person, known to the bewitched one, and a description of whom the wizard easily elicited and partly supplied, had overlooked him. They were to follow certain observances for several days, such as going from the house always at first in a particular direction. They would then shortly see a man of given description come to the house with a basket on his arm, and he should ask for their custom for his wares. They must refuse to buy, for this was the evil witch employed by the overlooking enemy.

¹This was no doubt Lancelot Blackburne who at this time was sub-dean of Exeter. Mr. Couch printed this letter in *Notes and Queries*, 1st Series, Vol. XI.

After that they were to come and report again and all should be well. When the man afflicted next went to Chard all was declared right, prosperity promised, and the deluded one paid down his money and came away happy, and quite convinced that the white witch was a most wonderful man, for no misfortune had befallen him since his communing with the wizard.

Another well-authenticated story is of a person who suffered severely with the toothache, and after trying various remedies was recommended to a toothache charmer in Taunton, and went. The woman who possessed this title produced some herbs and charms, and after muttering some few words declared a cure effected.

The belief in the 'Evil Eye' is still strong on the Blackdown Hills. A short time ago there was living in the parish of Churchstanton a woman who was credited with the possession of the 'Evil Eye,' and in consequence was held in great dread by her neighbours.

Until within a few years past there lived at Blackmoor, West Buckland, a woman who was feared by all the people near, as she had a great reputation as a witch.

It is considered very lucky to find a holy flint; that is, a flint with a natural hole in it, for the possession of such a stone is a safeguard against fairies, witches, and the Evil Eye.

Many people remember Sall Sack and Nanny Small, two witches, who lived near the town, and whose cottages people were afraid to pass.

Superstitions about Places, Ghosts, Fairies, &c.—On the Blackdown Hills, just above the town, is a place named Symonsborough. Local tradition ascribes the name to the supposed fact that a British chieftain named Simond or Symmond fell in battle just at this spot. It used to be confidently asserted by the people living near the place that the barrow could never be lessened, because as fast as the stones composing it were drawn away more would miraculously come to fill their places. A man named James Bale, who died only a few years since, tested the correctness of the old legend, with the result

that now neither the barrow nor any sign of it exists ; but the spot is remembered in the name of Symonsborough hamlet, Great and Little Symonsborough farms, and the field names of Great Barrow Close and Little Barrow Close.

A story which alternates with the foregoing in connexion with Symonsborough is that the stones were brought there by the Evil One in his apron. The place is, therefore, known to many as the ' Devil's Lapful.'

At the top of Wellington Hill, in the copse to the west of the Monument, there is a gully known as Wilscum Bottom. Here is a waterfall ; the water falling into a hole, the bottom of which is of soft marl, proceeds downwards towards Bryant's Farm. This hole is called ' Popham's Pit,' and is supposed to be one of the entrances to the nether region of fiends. In fact, the Arch Enemy himself is said to issue from thence at certain times. It is believed that if cattle fall into this pit they sink out of sight into a bottomless abyss. Local tradition says that Sir John Popham was riding in this copse and that his horse fell over the edge of the hole and killed his rider. The ghost of the Knight is said to haunt the spot and approach the town nearer ' by one cock-stride every year.'

The following is an account of similar superstitions of the same locality, as told to Mr. F. T. Elworthy, and given in dialect spelling in his *Grammar*. The more familiar rendering is given here :—

' I suppose you have heard about the great oak-tree up at Wellington Park wood, which, they used to say, Lord Popham was conjured (transformed) into ? Well, don't you see, up there, you know, Sir, there is a great deep bottom (ravine) goes down as deep as the tower, very steep like, as one may say, the same as the side going up over Wellington Hill, and this here oak-tree, he was a terrible great tree sure enough, he was, and he grew in the side of him (*i.e.*, of the ravine), and that place is called Wilscombe bottom. You mind (recollect) the poor (*i.e.*, deceased) old Tom Alway, don't you, Sir ? that is, the old Tom Alway's father, you know, Sir (he)

helped to throw (fell) him, and when they threw him (the oak), if he did not turn right top-on-tail (head over heels)—yes, sure, and the head of him was right down under, and there he abode, and they was all of them afraid for to go anenst (near) him, and they said how he was so conjured nobody could not never drag him out; and there he remained; and at last I went up, because they said the horses would be sure to be killed, with ten oxen, and I hitched them up to him, and the bullocks pulled him out, and dragged him into the hanging-close, and I never saw nought, and they was all of them a-waiting and a-looking how I should have been killed, and calling of me a fool for to go, but I never saw naught, nor yet nobody at all. And you knows Wellington Park house, don't you, Sir? I mind when I used to live up there, up in the garret, there was a place there then like a oven like, and I saw some books with reading in them in the oven, and they said that was Lord Popham's books, and they said how a man went up and set astride upon the roof with a Bible, in order that he (the devil) might not carry the roof away. Yes! and 'tis a terrible old house, Sir, but I never did not see nobody there, no worse than myself, as one might say. Nevertheless, I have heard them say how the servant chap was going for to let out (*i.e.*, into a pasture) the hackney after his master had come home from market, and there was a man stood in the gateway, and he could not open the gate, and when they took him to doing (scolding) next morning, because he had not put out the horse, don't you see, Sir? he said, said he, how he could not put him out, because there was a man stood right in the gateway, so that he could not open him (the gate), and they always used to say how they always considered that there was Lord Popham.'

There is near the 'Cat and Fiddle' on the hill a large boulder stone known as Cock-Crow Stone, and it is said of the stone that every time it hears the cock crow it gets up and turns round. An attempt was once made to move this stone, for it is believed that there is hidden beneath it a crock of gold. The stone, however, resisted all attempts of a team of horses to move it. When old houses are being pulled down it is a very common question to ask for 'the Crock.' Hoards of money have, indeed, been found which were hidden away in stormy times.

No spot is, perhaps, held in greater dread by the young than

‘Webber’s Grave,’ a crossway lying to the south of the town, where a suicide or murderer was buried. It is confidently asserted, and it is probably true, that a stake was driven through the body of Webber, as was customary in burying criminals of this type.

On the road from Wellington to Milverton is a small cover known as ‘Young Oaks.’ From here it is asserted that ‘Hell hounds’ used to issue forth at night, and rush along the roads at a furious rate, breathing out fire as they went, compelling all who saw them to rush into the hedges for safety, and then vanishing as suddenly as they appeared. These ‘Hell-hounds’ are described as being perfectly white, with mouths always wide open and tongues of flame proceeding therefrom. It is stated that they sometimes would dash through the villages of the district in the night at a fearful pace, terrifying all who saw them.

Of ghosts we have our full share. The fields known as Hilly-head have from time immemorial been regarded as haunted, and though Lackington professed to have exposed the superstition it still lingers, the proximity of the cemetery helping to keep it alive.

A well-known private residence in Fore Street once had the misfortune to be regarded as haunted, and some old people still living recall the house being deserted and boarded up. The man whose ghost haunted the place was a banker, and after his death a woman living in a cottage behind the ‘Three Cups’ said she had seen his ghost, and had not felt well ever since. For a long time ghosts were frequently reported to be treading on people’s toes in the same locality. Mr. Jarratt, the vicar, and Mr. Cherry, Baptist minister, are credited with having chased and laid the ghost in the copse.

A man named Morrish, standing over six feet, once reported that he saw a light in the church one night at a very late hour as he was coming down Tower Lane. The sexton was roused, but the phantom had fled. The fact that Morrish died soon after was considered pertinent to this incident.

From a very curious book by Richard Bovet, published in 1684,

and called *The Pandæmonium, or the Devil's Cloyster* (see Bibliography), a good deal can be learnt of the fairy beliefs of this district. Bovet's relations are very curious. Of fairies, he writes: 'The place near which they most ordinarily showed themselves was on the side of a hill named Blackdown. Those that have had occasion to travel that way have frequently seen them there, appearing like men and women of a stature, generally, near the smaller size of men; their habits (clothes) used to be of red, blue, or green, according to the old way of country garb, with high-crown'd hats.' These fairies sometimes appeared dancing and sometimes keeping a fair. Bovet relates that a farmer of the neighbourhood, returning one night from market, seeing (or thinking he saw) a great array of these fairies, and having the curiosity to approach near to them he became afflicted with lameness, and continued lame all his life. 'There were some,' continues Bovet, 'whose names I have now forgot, but who assured me that they had at many times seen this fair-keeping in the summer time as they came from Taunton market; but that they must not adventure in amongst them, for that every one that had done so had received great damage by it. Any person that is incredulous of what is here related may, upon inquiry of the neighbour inhabitants, receive ample satisfaction, not only as to what is here related, but abundantly more, which I have heard solemnly confirmed by many of them.'

Pixy-rings are places where fairies dance. Toadstools are pixy-stools. Gathering stray apples in an orchard is called gathering the pixy-wording, *viz.*, pixy-hoarding.

Superstitions about Births and Deaths.—A remarkable instance of the veneration in which the ash-tree is held was instanced quite recently when the wife of a well-to-do farmer gave birth to twins, one of whom was born with hernia. To cure this, the farmer and his wife, together with neighbours and dependents, adjourned to a wood early one Sunday morning and split open the stem of a

young growing ash-tree, wide enough for the child to be passed through. This was done three times, and the tree bound up again with a hay band, the popular belief being that if the tree grows together again the child will get better, but if the sides of the tree do not unite the child will die. In this identical case the hay band got removed, and the superstitious farmer was unable to test the validity of his belief.

There is a widespread superstition that when a death occurs in a family where bees are kept each hive ought to be told of it. Mr. Elworthy has given a curious instance of this. Some years ago a man whose wife had very recently died was desirous to sell two hives of bees. It was suggested to him that his reason for selling was lest they should die. But he replied that it was all right, the bees would not die, for he had been down on his knees as they carried his wife's corpse away and whispered it to them all.

It is considered not only unlucky, but a sign of death if, in swarming, the bees alight on a dead tree.¹

When a candle is burning, if the melted grease runs down on one side it often projects and then unites to the candle, forming a loop. This is a 'coffin handle,' and is a sure sign of death to the person in whose direction it forms itself. The same superstition holds when the grease merely forms a considerable projection ; it is then 'a winding sheet,' and being more common is not as much dreaded as a 'coffin handle.'²

A late and solitary blossom on an apple-tree is a sign of death, so also is a dog barking at night, or a bird tapping against the window pane. Other death signs are the accidental placing of the bellows on the table ; if the flowers of May or white thorn are brought into the house ; if four magpies are seen together.

Always drown kittens born in May, as they will catch no mice.

Bovet relates, 'At Kitsford, which is now the seat of Thomas Wood, Esq., I very well remember dining in the parlour there with

¹ Elworthy, *Word Book*.

² *Ibid.*

the lady, the mother of the above-named gentleman ; she showed me in the hangings of the room, near one of the windows, a great hole eaten, as supposed, by rats ; it was almost at the top of the room ; and this, she said, happened but a few weeks before the death of her husband. Some time after, dining again in the same room, there was another hole eaten just under the former, which, the gentlewoman was pleased to say, did foreshew her death ; and truly, in a very little time after, she died on a Sunday morning without any previous sickness, being at that time dressing herself to go to church with intent to receive the Communion, and was to all appearance well in health, and dead in half an hour's time. About a year or more after that another hole was eaten in the same hanging, soon after which died Roger Wood, Esq., the Heir, and elder brother to him that now enjoys the estate. He likewise died very suddenly, for having been out coursing a hare in the morning he came in about noon at his brother's, George Powell, Esquire's (where he then lodged), and, leaning his hand to his head, complained that his head ached, and died in a few hours.¹

A superstition very prevalent in the neighbourhood about the tolling of the death-bell is that if it sounds 'heavy,' or not clear, there will be occasion for it to ring again within a short time ; some fix it at a week.

If a corpse is limp when put into the coffin there will shortly be another death in the family.

Miscellaneous Superstitions.—It is believed that if you wish to do injury to an enemy you must take an onion, write the name of your enemy on a piece of a paper, and then stick it with pins to the onion, putting as many pins into the onion through the paper as it will take. The onion must then be put up the chimney, and as it withers so will the heart of the person whose name is pierced. The pig's heart is used for the same purpose.²

Two hearts and a criss-cross drawn with the forefinger on the

¹ Bovet, *Pandæmonium*, 1684.

² Elworthy, *Word Book*.

mash in brewing or the sponge in baking are supposed to be quite effectual in keeping off mischievous sprites or witches.

A double nut is worn as a charm against witches. As cures for toothache the double-nut charm is also used, and the drawing on of the stockings and boots in the order contrary to custom is a supposed preventive. A drawn tooth should be thrown into the fire, otherwise 'dog's tooth' will be engendered.

An obsolete Twelfth-night custom to bring luck and fruitfulness to the apple-trees was to toast a round of bread and soak it in a mug of cider. The bread was then taken to the apple-tree and placed in the fork all soft and sopped. Then each one present took a mouthful of the cider in the mug and ejected it from their mouths on to the toast. The company then shouted,—

‘ Apple-tree ! apple-tree ! I wassail thee !
And wish thee good luck !
To blow and to bear !
Hatfuls ! capfuls ! three bushel bagfuls !
And my pockets full, too ! Hurrah !’

After this ceremony had been gone through to several trees there was a return to the fireside, where more mugs were passed around.

Store or hoard apples should never be gathered when the moon is on the wane or they will shrivel up.

When the cuckoo is heard for the first time it is lucky to run as hard as you can straight ahead for a hundred yards or so.

To help a friend to salt is to help him to sorrow ; the antidote being to take a pinch of the salt so given and throw it over the left shoulder.

During a thunderstorm always open the door of the room where you are sitting, so that if a thunderbolt comes down the chimney it may find its way out.

A sty on the eye is remedied by striking it with a wedding-ring. When the new moon is first seen the one who sees it should,

to avert ill-luck, turn his back to the moon, take out a coin and toss it over the left shoulder, at the same time looking over that shoulder. When the new moon change happens to fall on a Saturday it portends bad weather. The old saying runs,—

‘Saturday’s moon
If it comes once in seven years
Comes once too soon.’

By some it is believed that if the weather is about to change it will do so on a Sunday. Others say that whatever the weather is on a Saturday that will it be the week to come. Or again,—

‘A rainy Friday, a rainy Sunday.
A fair Friday, a fair Sunday.’

There have been, as may be supposed, some Tom Fools in the town. Tommy Lackey, whose right name was Thomas Lackington, and who was one of the last representatives of Lackington, the famous bookseller, died in the workhouse about twenty years ago. He was half-witted, of diminutive stature, and was always pleading for a ‘Ha’penny,’ in return for which he would repeat a portion of the Bible.

Cock-Pit John was another character. He had been in the Battle of Waterloo, and was generally twitted with having run away on that occasion.

Most of the inn signs in the town have very ordinary names, and many, no doubt, have no local signification, but are merely copied from the best known inns of the old coaching days in London and Taunton.

‘The Bell,’ which used to be in South Street, and the old ‘Eight Bells,’ still in High Street, got their names no doubt from the love of bell-ringing, which has given us the name of ‘The Ringing Isle.’ It will be observed that ‘The Eight Bells’ is near the church, where we should expect it, and where inns bearing this name usually are found.

‘The Swan’ is the earliest inn which we have any record of here. It appears as early as 1548.

‘The George,’ which was in Mantle Street, we hear of in 1646.

‘The Three Cups’ is first mentioned in 1694.

‘The Squirrel’ appears in the churchwardens’ accounts of 1686. At this last named posting-house there was about forty years ago a turnspit-dog—a breed now unknown—but which two or three generations ago was the prime mover at the spit and its savoury appendage. The truant element in this breed was very common, and I am told by a well-informed resident that he well remembers the turnspit at ‘The Squirrel’ slinking off some time before the dinner hour so that he might escape his duty. The turnspit was a very old institution, older than Tusser’s time.

‘Good diligent turnbroche, and trusty withall,
Is sometime as needfull as some in the hall.’

Tusser, *Good Husbandry*, 1580.

The animal was placed inside a circular cage, where he worked like a squirrel, or like a man on the treadmill, except that the dog was inside the circle instead of outside. The animals constantly climbing kept the cage revolving, and this by a leather band conveyed the revolution to the spit at the fire.¹

*An Eighteenth Century Traveller.*²—‘Oct. 22nd, 1750, I came from Devonshire into Somersetshire. . . . I soon came to Wellington, situated on a rising ground; it is a small town, chiefly subsisted by the thorowfare and the woollen manufacture. There is a good church at the end of the town with a fine tower.’ After giving the inscription on Popham’s tomb, he says: ‘He and his lady are in leaden coffins in a vault under the monument. The family in Wiltshire are descended from him, who have an estate and a house at the west end of the town. The rood-loft remains here, and the altar is

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 3rd, 4th, and 6th series, *passim*.

² *Travels of Dr. Pococke* (Camden Society), 1888, pp. 142, 143.

at a little distance from the east end, with a partition behind it. There is a meeting-house here built like a church, with a burial-place to it. The Anabaptists have a meeting here.¹

Another traveller who passed through the town in 1791 speaks of 'Wellington, with its large church and little hospital, its pots, and its wool.'¹ This fragment is interesting because it tells of the pottery industry being in existence earlier than is generally supposed.

¹ *Tour through the South of England in 1791.*

LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED WITHIN A RADIUS OF FIVE MILES OF WELLINGTON.

Kestrel.—This, the commonest bird of prey in Britain, is common enough here, notwithstanding the persistent efforts of gamekeepers to exterminate this and the next species.

The Sparrow Hawk.—Usually considered to be less common than the kestrel, but is certainly not so here. Unlike the kestrel, this hawk generally, and perhaps always, makes its own nest.

Common Buzzard.—Rare. A very few buzzards have been seen near Wellington. The last, which was shot near Burlescombe about two years ago, is now in the possession of Mr. Egerton Burnett.

Montagu's Harrier.—A specimen of this harrier was shot near Wellington about the year 1865, and another in 1885.

Tawny Owl.—A common bird here, locally known as the brown owl. Its rather melancholy hoot may be heard in the town on almost any still night. The usual notes resemble a low whistle, consisting of four notes, a pause, and then six more notes; less often they make a louder and shriller screech and hoot, which may be imperfectly represented by the syllables tu-whit, tu-whit, tu-worr- r-r-r, each succeeding 'tu-whit' being louder than the last and concluding with a sort of bray.

Long-eared Owl.—This bird, commonly called the 'horned' owl, is much less common than the last.

Barn Owl.—Locally known as the white owl. Not quite so common as the tawny owl, though, as it flies very early in the

evening, often before sunset, it is more commonly seen, and shot, than its brown relative. Stuffed barn owls are common household ornaments in the town.

Great Grey Shrike.—A specimen of this rare visitor was shot at Nynehead in 1862, and may now be seen at the Taunton Museum.

Red-backed Shrike.—This, the common butcher-bird, is a well-known summer visitor to this neighbourhood.

Spotted Flycatcher.—A common summer visitor. It often builds its nest in wall-fruit trees.

Golden Oriole.—A specimen of this rare and beautiful bird has been shot at Bradford, and is now in the Nynehead collection.

Dipper.—Locally called the water colley. A very common bird on the river Tone and other streams in the neighbourhood.

Mistle Thrush.—Locally known as the holm screech. Very common.

Ring Ouzel.—Sometimes seen on the Blackdown Hills, probably when on migration. They are known to breed on some parts of Exmoor and Dartmoor, as well as on the Quantocks.

Nightingale.—A summer visitor, but not common. Two or three were heard near the town in 1888.

Wheatear.—An occasional visitor at migration time.

Sedge Warbler.—Very common. As it sings at night this bird and the woodlark are often mistaken for the nightingale.

Grasshopper Warbler.—This interesting bird is very common here as a summer visitor.

Chiff-Chaff.—The first of our summer visitors. It has been heard near Wellington as early as March 21, and is one of the last birds to depart in autumn. This bird, together with the willow warbler and wood warbler, are locally known as the underground oxeye, possibly on account of their building their nests close down to the ground among long grass, and their eggs somewhat resembling those of the oxeye tit. If they are so called on this account, the willow warbler most deserves the name.

Golden Crested Wren.—Common here all the year round. Its nest is often found in garden fir-trees.

Great Tit.—Locally called the oxeye tit. Very common.

Blue Tit.—This is the commonest ‘tomtit’ here as elsewhere in England.

Coal (or Cole) Tit.—A common bird here, more numerous in winter than summer.

Marsh Tit.—Probably commoner here than the last in summer, and less so in winter.

Pied Wagtail.—Locally called ‘dishwasher.’ A very common bird here; it may often be seen running about in the streets of the town.

Grey Wagtail.—A common winter visitor, a few remaining to breed in the summer.

Ray’s Wagtail.—This is a summer visitor, not so common as the other wagtails; this and the last species are both known as the yellow wagtail.

Meadow Pipit.—Very common on the barest parts of the Blackdown Hills. This bird as well as the tree pipit are commonly called ‘tillarks.’

Wood Lark.—Not common.

Reed Bunting.—Sometimes known as the black-headed bunting. Common.

Yellow Hammer.—By far the commonest of the bunting family.

The Brambling or Mountain Finch.—A rare winter visitor.

Goldfinch.—This beautiful bird cannot be called common here. One pair at least breeds annually near Wellington, and small flocks are occasionally seen in the neighbourhood.

Siskin.—An occasional winter visitor, generally in small flocks.

Lesser Redpoll.—Not a very common bird, and supposed rarely to breed in the South of England. Its nest has been found on two occasions near Wellington.

Linnet.—Popularly called brown linnet, or grey linnet, according to age and sex. Common.

Rook.—Very common. There are several rookeries in the town, and immense numbers (tens of thousands), accompanied by jackdaws, roost at Nynehead every night. They come in from all points of the compass at about sunset, many flocks coming from a great distance.

Jackdaw.—Very common. A few breed every year in the parish church tower, and at Wellisford a small colony breed every year in one lime-tree. This tree has an extraordinary growth of small branches, forming an almost impenetrable thicket round the trunk, at from twenty to thirty feet from the ground, and here many pairs breed. A large colony of jackdaws breed in the quarries at West Leigh.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.—Much less common than the green woodpecker, although hardly to be called a rare bird.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.—As the last.

Wryneck.—A rather uncommon bird here; better known east of Taunton.

Wren.—Locally called ‘cudley,’ and less often ‘cutty.’ Very common.

House Martin.—Common. Although the greater number of the swallows and martins leave us towards the end of September, a few remain until the end of October or even later. A pair which bred this year in Fore Street had young ones in the nest as late as October 29 (1888), and stray birds have been seen in the town as late as November 11th.

Sand Martin.—Common. Small colonies breed annually at Nynehead, Rinnington, and elsewhere near the town.

Nightgar.—Locally called the night crow. Common.

Stock Dove.—Often confounded with the rock dove, and called the ‘blue rock.’ Much less common than the ring dove, though by no means rare.

Turtle Dove.—Less common than either of the last two species.

Pheasant.—Common enough in its state of semi-domestication.

Black Grouse.—Better known as black cock and heath poult. Occasionally found on the hills near Wellington.

Quail.—Rare. Occasionally found in the neighbourhood.

Great Plover.—A bird of this species was shot at West Buckland in the winter of 1887-8.

Golden Plover.—A not uncommon winter visitor.

Lapwing.—Locally called ‘peewit,’ though not numerous in the summer season. In severe winters great numbers of them may be seen in the fields.

Green Sandpiper.—A rare visitor. There is a stuffed specimen in Taunton Museum which was shot at Nynehead.

Ruff.—One specimen in winter plumage has been shot at Nynehead, and may now be seen stuffed at the Taunton Museum.

Common Sandpiper.—A summer visitor. Not very common.

Knot.—One specimen of this bird has been shot at Nynehead.

Woodcock.—Not uncommon as a winter visitor.

Common Snipe.—Common here in winter, and less so in summer. A few are known to breed in the neighbourhood.

Jack-Snipe.—Much less common than the last.

Curlew.—Only an occasional visitor to the neighbouring hills.

Heron.—Locally miscalled the crane. Herons may often be seen near the river; as many as eight have been seen together. They are probably visitors from the heronry at Pixton.

Water Rail.—Locally called ‘skitty.’ Not common.

Land Rail.—Much commoner, and better known than the last.

Moor Hen.—Very common.

Coot.—Only an occasional visitor, though not to be considered rare.

Mute Swan.—This, the common tame swan, is sometimes kept on ornamental waters near the town.

White-fronted Goose.—This species of wild goose has been shot as near as Fitzhead, and possibly other species of the wild grey goose have been seen in the neighbourhood from time to time. A wild

goose was shot at West Buckland early in 1888, but only the head, feet, and wings of the same were preserved. This bird was *supposed* to be a specimen of the *Lesser White-fronted Goose*, a bird not hitherto found wild in Britain.

Shoveller.—An occasional winter visitor.

Wigeon.—As the last.

Teal.—As the last, but more common.

Great Northern Diver.—A specimen of this very fine bird has been shot at Nynehead.

Red-throated Diver.—A dead specimen was found at Bishops Hull, March 29, 1868.

Great Crested Grebe.—This bird has only been seen here once, at Nynehead in 1826.

Little Grebe.—Occasionally seen in the neighbourhood.

Common Gull.—Small flocks of this species of gull, or possibly the kittiwake, may often be seen flying over Wellington on their way from sea to sea. Larger gulls, probably the herring gull, have also been seen passing over.

Richardson's Skua.—A specimen of this rare inland visitor, in immature plumage, was shot at Red Ball in August 1888.

Buffon's Skua.—One specimen of this bird, another rare visitor, was shot at Langford Heath in October 1863.

Fork-tailed Petrel.—This, another rare bird, has been taken at Lowton.

Storm Petrel.—Two specimens of this rare inland visitor have been taken near West Buckland.

Of our more ordinary feathered friends the following may be named:—Fieldfare; Blackbird, locally called the ‘colley;’ Redstart, locally called ‘lady red-tail;’ Whitethroat, and Lesser Whitethroat.

The following may be classed as being much more common:—Song Thrush, Robin (locally known as robin herdick), Stonechat, Blackcap, Wood Warbler, Willow Warbler, Long-tailed Tit

(locally called 'burn-towel'), Tree Pipit, Sky-lark, Common Bunting, Chaffinch (locally called the Whitefinch), Greenfinch (sometimes popularly called Green linnet), Bullfinch, Starling (the great consumer of fruit), Carrion Crow, Magpie, Jay, Green Wood-pecker, Treecreeper, Nuthatch, Cuckoo, Kingfisher, Swallow, Swift, Ring Dove, Partridge, Sparrow, and House Sparrow.

The Badger.—This animal, which is becoming extinct in England, is not yet exterminated from this neighbourhood. The badger is still frequently seen near White Ball, and also on the Blackdown Hills.

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— *A | Treatise | of | Paradise | and the principal | contents thereof:* | Especially | of the greatnessse, | situation, beautie | and other properties of | that place ; of the trees of life, good and evill ; of the ser | pent, cherubin, fiery sword, mans creation, im | mortalitie, propagation, stature, age, knowledge, | temptation, fall, and exclusion out of Para | dise ; and consequently of his and our | original sin : with many other | difficulties touching | these points. | Collected out of the holy Scriptures, | ancient fathers, and other both anci | ent & moderne writers. | London. | Printed by Edward Griffin for | Nathaniel Bvttter. | 1617. | (Dedicated) to the right | Honourable, Sir | Francis Bacon Knight, Lord | Keeper of the Great Seale of En | gland, and one of his ma | iesties most honorable | Privy Councell. Pp. 359.

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TYLOR, EDWARD BURNET. B. at Camberwell 1832. Resident at Linden, Wellington, many years, where his principal literary work is believed to have been done. *Anahuac; or Mexico and the Mexicans, Ancient and Modern*. London: 1861. 8vo. *The Stone Age, Past and Present*. 1874. 8vo. *Primitive Culture*. 2 volumes. London: 1871. 8vo. *Researches into the Early History of Mankind*. London: 1865. 8vo. Third Ed. London: 1878. Translated into German by H. Müller 1867. By G. Siebert 1883. *Anthropology: an Introduction to the Study of Man and Civilisation*. London: 1881. 8vo. *Life of Dr. Rolleston*. 1884. 8vo. Pre-

face to Samoa, a Hundred Years Ago. 1884. 8vo. Various papers in the Transactions of the Royal Society. The Anthropological Institute British Association and Folk Lore Society. Also magazine articles in the *Archæological Review*, *Contemporary*, &c.

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APPENDIX.

SINCE the first part of this book was printed I have copied in full from the State Papers at the Record Office reports of certain matters which are referred to elsewhere in this volume. The interest in the conspiracy to blow up and rob the Exchequer at Taunton, and the belabouring of Mr. Stephen Tymewell, we must share with our neighbours at Taunton. With regard to the first-named, those who are pleased to read the evidence taken before Mr. Justice Hunt will see that the conspiracy was plotted at Wellington, and the principal movers, 'the lusty rogues,' as Mr. Hunt called them, were Wellington men. This, and the fact that the plot was of very serious importance, must be sufficient justification for the insertion of these reports entire here.

The objection to Stephen Tymewell was that he had attempted to put down the day of annual rejoicing for Blake's brave deeds, which was recognised probably as much at Wellington as at Taunton. At any rate, this very loyal Mayor was 'openly insulted' at Wellington Fair, May 31, 1683 (*see* p. 93), and received even worse treatment at Taunton.

The Sale of Tobacco in Wellington, 1632 (see p. 102).

To the Right Ho^{ble} the Lords of his Mat^{ies} privy Counsell.

We have accordinge to yo^r Lo^{pps} orders mett together wthin the Hundred of Milverton and the Ffower wester tithings of Kingsburie and the p'sentments of all such persons as are thought fitt to sell tobacco we have hereunto sent unto your Lord^{ps} as they were delivered unto us.

WILLM. FFRANCIS.

WILLM. EVERY.

Wellington, Somerset, 12 die Septembris, 1632.

We p'sent christopher Wolcott William Hickman Nicholas Neiles John Brendforde to sell tobacco by retayle.

Nicholas Bicknell	}	Constables.
Will ^m Pile		
Will ^m Coggan	}	Churchwardens.
Thomas Darle		
William Cope	}	
John Gefford		
W ^m Heafield	}	Overseers.
J. Baker.		

*Documents Relating to the Conspiracy, Plotted at Wellington,
to Blow up and Rob the Exchequer at Taunton, 1664.*

(See p. 102.)

M^r Justice Hunt to Sir Henry Bennett,
Right Hon^{ble},—

I wayted on my Lords the Judges at Dorchester as they passed into Cornwall, and acquainted them wth the examinacons I had taken touchinge Tanton businesse as to the Burglary: the proofe they thinke to bee very cleare, and thear wilbee this advantage for the further discovery of the plott, that Priest, Carde, and Campe have their heads in a halter and 'tis likely when the Assizes draws nigh and (they) see noe hopes they may confesse, they are yet stubborne. I shall lett slipp noe opportunity to bottome the designe, Campe and Carde cann say much; and I have some hopes to work upon Kampe: when hee last went from mee he wept, but when they returned to their fellowes in the Gaole, they harden them agen, and realy I think if I had not remov'd the Martens from their fellowes I should never have gott anytinge ffrom them.

All these Concerned in the Burglary and their Accessarys have been in Armes agst the Kinge but one, and lusty rouges they are.

My Lord, the Judges desired mee to send you the substance of such examinacons as I have taken w^{ch} I have hear inclosed, the two examinacons as to the Burglary I sent yo^r Lord^{pp} formerly. The Judges desire that upon

the perusal of the inclosed, if you have any commands for them, that they may receive them at the Assizes wth wilbee at Bath for this County 24 instant, and S^r if in anythinge I may bee further serviceable to you you may presume that I shall wth very much zeale endeavour to appeare.

My Lord,

Y^r most obedient servant,

Compton Pauncefote, 13 August, 1664.

ROB^t HUNT.

To the right Hon^{ble} S^r Henry Bennett,
Principle Secretarye of estate these humbly present,
Whyte Hall.

Somsett.—John Crosse of Elbier in the parish of Kinston in the said County yeoman examined the 9th day of June 1664 Before Rob^t Hunt and Edward Court Esq^r two of his Mat^{ies} Justices. Saith upon his oath that the day after Candlemas day last this Exam. (witness) and his father in lawe John Morse mett with Hugh Martin and dranke all together att one Saunders house at Bushopps Liddeard and whilst they were drinkinge the said Hugh Martin discoursed much of the breakinge upp of the Exchequer att Taunton and takinge away of the money thence and then said that itt was more then ten mens worke to doe itt and furth^r said that there were men in armes at every Gate. This Inform^t then ask^t what to doe to rescue and secure the persons in case they should bee apprehended the said Martin replyed yes, yes and then the said Martin said that the said money was to pay souldiers.

(Signed) ROBERT HUNT.

John Morse of Water house in the parish of Kingston yeoman Examined the tenth day of June before Robert Hunt and Edward Court Esq. Informeth that he was att the time and place abovesaid att Saunders howse abovesaid in the Companye of the said John Crosse and Hugh Martin and that the said Hugh Martin discoursed much about the takinge away of the money out of the Exchequer att Taunton and said that his brother and hee were in trouble about itt butt said itt was a greater number then they have to be able to doe such a worke ffor that every gate was besett whereupon the said John Crosse asked the said Martin why the Gates were soe besett whether to oppose any that should resist them, or words to that effect the said Martin replyed yes, yes and then s^d that the said money was taken up to pay souldiers

(Signed) ROBERT HUNT.

Somsett.—Edward Avey (? Ivey) examined the 29th of April 1664 before Rob^t Hunt Esq^r one of his Mat^{ies} Justices. Saith that he and the said Hugh Martin discoursinge together about the Robbinge of the Exchequer att Taunton. This Inform^t told the said Hugh Martin that he had heard that the said Hugh had reported that the said money was taken thence for the payment of souldiers. The said Hugh Martin replied to this inform^t that itt was true has he did tell one Crosse that the said money was to pay souldiers and that they did sett a Guard att the Gates of Taunton att the same time. And the said Hugh further said that they should have known the money was to have Paid souldiers if good lucke had served. And this Inform^t said that Martin often wished that he would stopp the said Crosses mouth and told this Exam. that he would give him money in case he would undertake itt. And this Inform^t said that the said Hugh Martin told him that John Rosewell of Old Cleve knew of the busines and that he heard Martin desire Roswell not to confesse anythinge and to beware of beinge drunke.

And the said Edward Ivey examined the 7th of June 1664 saith that beinge in private the day before with the said Hugh Martin the said Martin did then alsoe say that the money taken out of the Exchequer was to pay souldiers and speakeing about the Guards kept att the Gates the night the said Exchequer was Robd. This Exam. said to the said Martin that he thought the Guard would have bin in a swoon condicon if they had heard a Gun goe of. To which Hugh Martin replied noe Before God they would have stood to itt And then told this Exam. that he the said Martin did not know that the money taken out of the Exchequer was in order to a plott till after the money was taken and saith that the said Major Colborne hath been in prison and hath spoken in private with Card and Campe and Martin.

Somsett.—Edward Ivey examined again the 13th day of June 1664. Saith further that the day before beinge Sunday the said Martin told this Exam. that he was at Major Colborns howse in Wellington and there supt with one Quash and two Herrings and Henry Martin of Taunton and divers of Wellington as Roger Card John Campe and others about a weeke before the Exchequer was Robbd and att that time the said Martin told this Inform^t that when they mett in the Castle yard to robb the Exchequer there was p'sent the said Colborne John Quash twoe Herrings Roger Card

and John Campe and divers strange faces which he knew not and said that the said Colborne and Blackmore had the said monies, and beleeves that Bassett knew of y^e businiss butt sawe him nott att the time and saith that Martin told him that there would be a course taken wth the said Crosse before he came to give his testimony, and alsoe said that this Exam. should heare other newes before the Assizes, and then clappinge his hand on this Exam. shoulder said Before God old boy thou shalt heare other newes shortly.

(Signed) ROBT. HUNT.

Somsett.—W^m Ridout late of Yarlington in the County afores^d yeoman Examined the 7 July 1664 before Robert Hunt. Sayth upon his oath that on Tewesday before Midsomer day last he was in the company of Hugh Martin in Ilchester prison and Discoursinge wth the say^d Marten about the robbinge of the Exchequer in Tanten this informant tould him the s^d Martin That hee hard that the money taken out of the Exchequer was in order to the raying of Armes agst the Kinge, and then advised the say^d Marten to make discovery of the whole businesse to some Justice of the Peace, whear-upon hee replyed that he doubted hee had say^d too much of that businesse to Mr. Juie already, and that hee could not tell in whome to putt confidence to discover himselfe unto.

(Signed) ROBT. HUNT.

John Collens of Compton pauncefoote and Henry Witch of Tanton Examined the 4 July 1664 say that bringinge of John Rosewell by a warrant to M^r Hunts house and discoursinge wth Rosewell upon the way the s^d Rosewell tould them that they should see an alteracon wthin seaven weekes & say^d it severall tymes, and then say^d that when hee came before Mr Hunt hee would bringe some in question that little thinke of it, and would make a way amongst them thoe hee brought himselfe in to

(Signed) ROBT. HUNT.

Rosewell upon his Examinacon denies the words but stands comitted.

Somsett.—Charles Carde, Tapster at the George in Wellington in the county afores^d examined 12 July 1664 before Robert Hunt. Confesseth that hee hath been three or fower times wth his brother Roger Card in Ilchester prison and that hee carried him the first tyme fower pounds and the last tyme he carried him three pounds, but both the s^d Somes ware this Exam^s owne money w^{ch} hee had lent to the s^d Roger Carde, w^{ch} this Exam gott as a Tapster under his master Coborne.

(Signed) ROBT. HUNT.

John Coburne of Wellington, Inholder [Innkeeper] examined 14th of July 16 Car II before Sir John Warre John Mallett, Francis Windham and Robert Hunt Esqrs. Sayth that hee well knowes John Campe now in prysone beleving him to bee a very honest man, and that he hath not to his remembrance ever seen Hugh Marten but once and that was in Ilchester Gaole, & that hee hath litle acquaintance wth Roger Card now in prison, but confesseth hee went once to visitt the say^d Campe and Carde in the Gaole, but had noe private conference wth them thear only gave them somewhate to drinke. And confesseth that there was a collecon made in Wellington for ye s^d Carde and Campe and that hee sent them only two shillings and fippence of his owne money since they had been in prison. And this Exam. sayth that hee beeleeves that his servant Charles Carde is worthe litle and confesses his servant Charles Carde hath beene three or fower tymes at the Gaole at Ilchester to see the s^d Roger Carde & John Campe.

(Signed) ROBERT HUNT.

John Campe late of Wellington Cutler Examd. 15 July 1664 before Robt. Hunt. Confesseth that the munday before the Exchequer at Tanton was rob'd Hugh Marten spake to this Exam. to joyne wth him to gett a good some of money but this Examt. did not promise him to goe wth him. But confesseth that the sunday after the s^d chequer was rob'd, one John Hill of Wellington tould this Exam. that hee & Hugh Martin had taken the money out of the chequer and then the s^d Hill offer'd this Exam. a bagg of money waicinge as hee judged about seaven or eight pound waight, but this Exam. sayth hee left the s^d bagg of money on the Table wth Hill whoe tould him that Hugh Marten had sent the money to this Exam. yet hee refused it; and confesseth that Major Coborne was in Ilchester prison to see him and Roger Carde and gave them one shillinge apeece, and denyes to have s^d anything to Martin of any plott or rysinge.

(Signed) ROBERT HUNT.

Roger Card examined the 15th of July 1664 before Robert Hunt. Confesseth that his brother Charles Card hath beene severall times in prison to visitt him, and that hee hath received from him about forty shillings and not much more & that Major Coborne sent him by his s^d brother 2^s 6^d at one tyme 1^s at another time and 1^s or sixpence at another time but denyes to have received any collecon from Wellington and denyes that he tould Henry Marten that thear would bee a rysinge before the Assizes, but sayth that

Henry Marten tould him that both the Dutch and Scotts would quarrell wth us.

1664.—18 July Henry Marten and Hugh Marten have uppon their examinacons fully made out the robbery of the Exchequer at Tanton as to the Burglary, and Henry Marten confesseth That both Roger Carde and Campe have severall times tould him, and did about fortnight since assure him That thear would be a rysinge before the Assizes and they should be sett at liberty, and desired this Exam. not to speake a word of it, and this Exam. asking uppon what grounds they spake of it they replyed uppon very good grounds and s^d farther to this Exam, say that wee say'd itt. And sayth farther that after y^e s^d Carde and Campe had acquainted this Inform^t of a Rysinge as affoars^d; Thear beeinge two prison^{rs} sent for by Mr Hunt to bee Examined touchinge some words spoaken by them about getting of pouder. This Exam. asked the s^d Carde if these persons soe sent for, wear concerned in the rysinge the said Card had formerly spoaken off to him this Exam. The s^d Card replyed that neyther of them knew anythinge of the s^d intended Rysinge, nor could either of them make any discovery of it uppon t heir Examinacons, and that their Examinacons would not hinder the rysinge.¹

(Signed) ROBT. HUNT.

The Mobbing of Stephen Tymewell (see p. 93).

The Bishop of Bath and Wells² to Sir Leoline Jenkins.

Honrd S^r,

I hope you re^{ed} y^e account of y^e actings of y^e Mayor of Taunton against y^e Rioters upon y^e 11 of May, w^{ch} for y^e greatest expedition (o^r Post being gone hence) I transmitted to you by y^e way of Bristol upon Thursday last. Since y^t account, he hath bin publiquely affronted in a Fair at Wellington, of w^{ch} I am informed by one of y^e men of Taunton now wth mee, who assures me y^t hee is confident iff an opportunity be offered those insolent People will proceed farther. I am now writing to som of y^e Justices in those parts, to appear in his vindicacon, and to p'secute those who affronted

¹ *State Papers, Domestic*, August 1664. p. 93-98.

² This was Peter Mews, the famous martial Bishop who, leaving the Diocese in 1684, returned in 1685 to show the Royalist gunners on Sedgmoor how to plant their guns. This is, perhaps, an unique modern instance of a bishop taking part in a battle.

him and I could wish som of y^e neighbor Justices, w^{ch} I shall, son comanded by you nominat, were associated to those of y^e Corporation w^{ch} I believe is in my L^d Keepers power to do Virtute officii you will I hope pardon this frequent Trouble w^{ch} is given you by Y^r affectionat Ser^{vt},

P. BATH AND WELLS.

Wells, May 21, 1683.

For y^o Right Hon^{ble} Sir Lionel Jenkins, one of his Mat^{ies} Principal Secretarys at Whitehall.

Lord Stawell to the same.

Honrd S^r,

Ham,

In obedience to his Maj^{ties} comands in your faver, I went yesterday to Taunton, and did then acquaint y^e Maier, with y^e King's resentment, (and) of his care and diligence in governing of that Rebelloios place which has very much incouraged him to goe on, and I did follow your directions there in, they were very rewd wth him on y^o 11th of May, he told mee, and ould have stoned him to death and his handfull of men, if they had not made an honourable retreat, it is very thin of Lyall men, and he dous dispaire of doing any farther good, unless his strength may be increased, I p^rsed [persuaded] him to give you account of it and what ever his Maj^{tie} is pleased to give me in comand, it shall be faithfully observed by

Your most humble servant, STAWELL.

I wish wee had orders to disarm all the ffanaticks in y^e County y^t ould quiet them.

Right Hon^{ble} S^r, Stephen Tymewell to the same.

I received yo^r Hon^{rs} letter dated y^e twenty fourth of May instant and I had hopes by this time to have finished all the exacons about y^e Riott comitted here on y^e eleventh of May instant but severall of y^e King's witnesses being att p^sent out of Towne I shall not be able to doe it untill their returne w^{ch} I hope may be by y^e next post or y^e next post after, in y^e mean time I thought it my duty to give yo^r Hon^{or} an accompt of y^o reason you have not them sooner. Yesterday wee celebrated his Ma^{ties} birthday and happy returne with Bonfires and Ringing of Bells and att one Bonfire on o^r Cornhill I gott severall Loyal Townsmen together and wee drank his Ma^{ties} health his Royall Highness Prince George and y^e Lady Anne yo^r Honors and severall other Loyall noblemen and gent. healths with drums beating and trumpetts sounding att each health with severall other xpressions

of or Joy the like hath not bin in this place since his Maties happy restauration and every person after drinking his Maties health departed peaceably. Next Monday is or Towne Sessions where ye p'sons yt comitted ye Riott on ye 11th instant will appear but wee will continue them upon their good behaviour and not proceed agt them before I know his Maties comand herein but in regard they are all very poor and have great charge of children wee had thought of punishing them in our own Sessions and did resolve to lett then lye sometime in prison for example sake although wee maintained their charge yet as tis my duty I submit to his Maties Comand and ye Attorney Genals Judgmt herein. I desired yo^r Hon^{rs} favor of an answer to this letter by ye next post that or Record^r may take measures thereby att ye Sessions.

I am,

M^r Secretary,

Yo^r Hon^{rs} most humble serv^t,

Taunton, may ye xxxth, 83.

STEPHEN TYMEWELL, Maior

To the Right Hon^{ble} S^r Lyonell Jenkins, one of his Maties
principall Secretaries of State att Whitehall These.

*A Letter referring to the Occupation of Wellington by
Royalist Troops, 1685.*

Lord Sunderland to the Duke of Albemarle.

Whitehall, the 24th of June, 1685.

Duke of Albemarle

My Lord,—I have your Graces of the 21st from Wellington with the letter you received from the Duke of Monmouth; his Maty approves very well of the answer you send to it. The King has just now received a further account and confirmation of the entire defeate of the Rebells in Scotland and the taking of Argyle who is brought to Edinburgh Castle. Rumbold and Ayliffe are also taken, but this latter endeavoured to kill himself by ripping up his Belly. S^r John Cockran with some of the Rebells dispersed themselves among the Mosses, but are so beset by the Kings Forces that they cannot possibly escape.

I am, My Lord, Your Graces, &c.,

Sunderland.

By Collins the Messenger.

In the list¹ of persons transported to the West Indies in 1685, after the Monmouth Rebellion and Bloody Assize, the names of the following are of interest as being mostly residents and natives of Wellington, or connected with families well known to have lived here. Those who have ages and occupations against their names were transported on board a ship called *The Jamaica Merchant* :—

Daniel Rutter, 20, serge weaver.	Lawrence Priest.
John Slade, 25, serge weaver.	Henry Priest, 22, plowman.
Thomas Rowsewell.	John Morse.
Charles Burrage, 27, comber.	Christopher Knight.
William Ley.	John Knight.
Thomas Priest, 20, serge weaver.	John Cockram, 18, comber.
John Culverwell.	James Cockram, 21, comber.

In a list of the same period of Prisoners in Exeter Gaol to be transported there occurs Edmund Bovett, and in a list of convicted rebels put on board *The Betty* at Weymouth, 1685, there appear the names of John Bovett and Edward Bovett.

In Sir William Booth's list (dated 24 Oct. 1685) of Prisoners sent to Barbadoes, the following names appear :—

Ambrose Winter, of West Buckland.

Lawrence Hussey, of Wellington.

¹ Hotten's.

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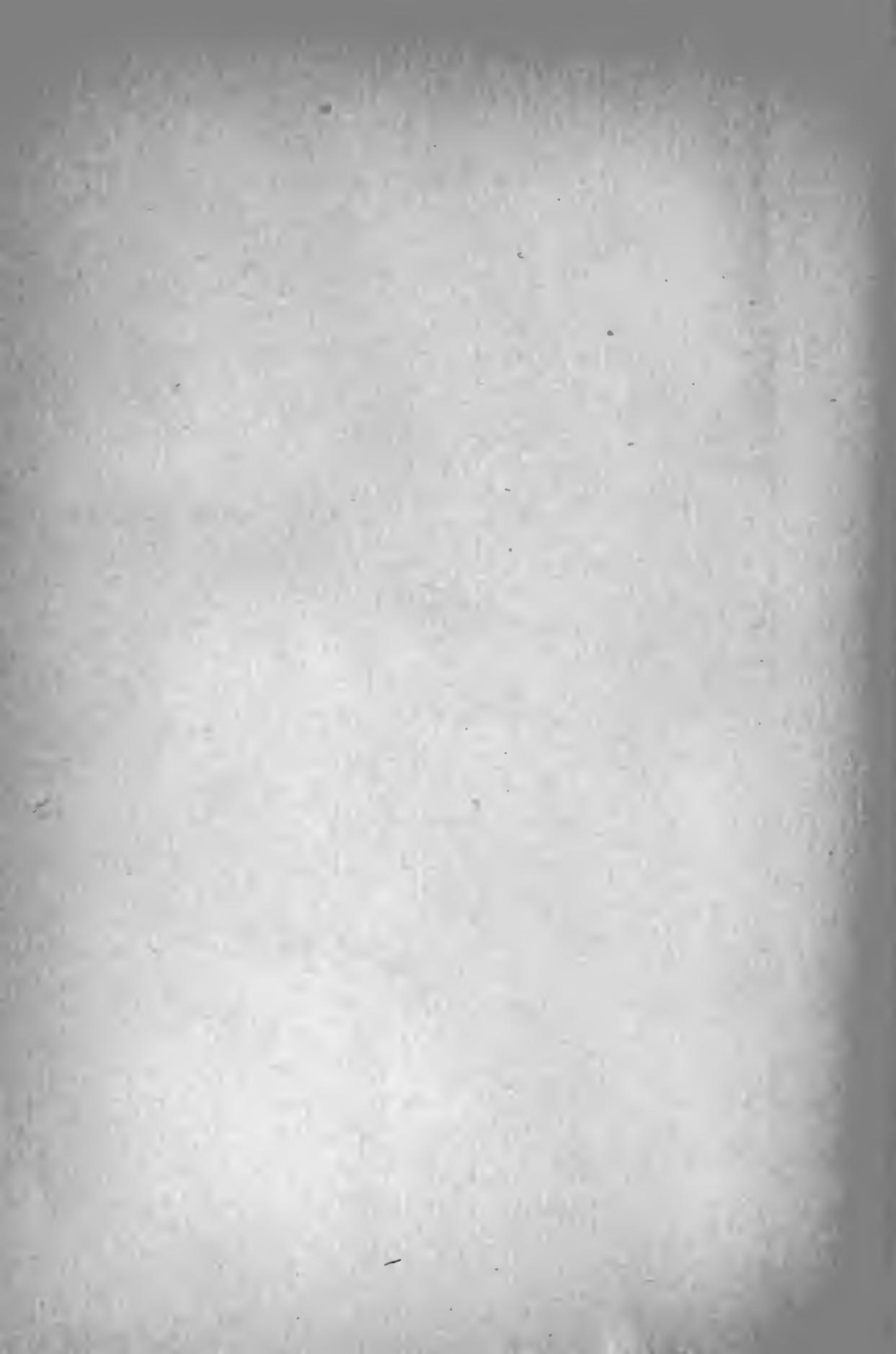
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